

Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2018-2019

1.0 Context

- 1.1 This report sets out an annual update on the corporate parenting arrangements in Barnsley, with progress and outcomes for children in care and care leavers for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. It reminds members of key legislation and guidance, advising on local performance and service improvement, as well as progress made by the corporate parenting panel. The report aims to strengthen the role and responsibilities of corporate parents in improving outcomes for children and young people.

2.0 Proposals and Reasons: Corporate Parenting – Our Responsibilities Legal Framework

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000 place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transition support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education). Underpinning corporate parenting is a wide range of national policies, guidance, regulations and legislation, which are subject to change by High Court rulings, such as the Southwark ruling in 2009.
- 2.2 The revised care planning regulations and guidance, including The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review; Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers; and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children March 2010, place increased emphasis on effective care planning with a focus on the child, and are designed to improve the quality and consistency of care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. They also aim to improve the care and support provided to care leavers.
- 2.3 The UK Government made significant reforms to the youth remand framework with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in December 2012. The Act implicitly attributes further responsibility to Local Authorities by means of children and young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation, being treated as children looked after and being eligible for leaving care services if they are looked after beyond 13 weeks.
- 2.4 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced new provisions for care leavers. There is now a legal requirement upon councils to provide Personal Advisers (PA's) to care leavers up to the age of 25 and for councils to publish a local offer for care leavers.
- 2.5 Associated statutory guidance for the Children and Social Work Act 2017 focuses on supporting the education of children in care and previously looked-after children and how extending Personal Advisers for care leavers up to 25 should be implemented. Key duties for professionals involved with these groups of children and young people are outlined in the statutory guidance. For children in care in schools, the new guidance states that, '*Social workers, [Virtual School Heads], [Independent Reviewing Officers], school admission officers, and Special Educational Needs and*

Disability (SEND) departments should work together to ensure that, except in an emergency, appropriate education provision for a child is arranged at the same time as a care placement. Virtual Head teachers, who have the lead role for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children, should ensure that appropriate training needs for professionals responsible for young people's education are met.

3.0 Corporate Parenting – The Role and Responsibility of Councillors

3.1 Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services they receive. This is a shared responsibility by the Council as a whole. The role of the corporate parent is therefore:

- a) To receive and consider accurate and timely management information reports on the numbers, characteristics and needs of looked after children and care leavers.
- b) To receive and consider reports demonstrating how effectively Barnsley is serving it's looked after population through the provision of services and targeted initiatives.
- c) To receive briefings on new national and local initiatives designed to improve children and young people's life chances.
- d) To gain knowledge of services based on direct involvement and opportunities to meet and gain the views of stakeholders, especially listening to the views of children and young people looked after and members of the Care 4 Us Council.
- e) To monitor and review progress on the delivery of Corporate Parenting 'Promise' to children looked after and care leavers.
- f) To ensure that decisive action is taken to address any shortcomings in the services provided to children and young people.

4.0 The Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care

4.1 What all children and young people in our care can expect from us:

- We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.
- We'll promote, support and respect their identity.
- We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.
- We'll support children in care to be healthy.
- We'll prepare children in care for the future.
- We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.

5.0 Corporate Parenting in Barnsley

- 5.1 Children in care are those children and young people aged 0 -18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. The local authority has continuing responsibilities for young people up until they are 25 years of age who have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting to 13 weeks) to many of these. This includes all unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and children with multiple disabilities. Children in Care and Care Leavers are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.
- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is responsible for children in care, children at the edge of care and children and young people who have left care.
- 5.3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel have agreed that their role is to act as 'pushy parents' for our children in care and care leavers. The litmus test being "*would this be good enough for my child?*" irrespective of age.

6.0 Corporate Parenting Panel Overview and Membership

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding).
- 6.2 The Panel meet every two months and there continues to be good attendance at meetings by the full range of members, which include:
- Elected Members, BMBC
 - Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
 - Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
 - Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care, BMBC
 - A Care Experienced Young Person - Representative for the Care4Us/Children in Care Council
 - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, BMBC
 - Foster Carer/s from the Barnsley Foster Carers Association
 - Named Nurse for Children in Care, SWYPFT
 - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children/LAC, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Designated Doctor, BHNFT
 - Head of Service, Children in Care Services, BMBC
 - Managers for Children in Care and Care Leavers Teams, BMBC
 - Scrutiny Officer, BMBC (Observer)

7.0 Corporate Parenting Work Programme in 2018-19

- 7.1 At each of its meetings the Corporate Parenting Panel receives the following standard reports for scrutiny and challenge:
- Looked after Children Performance Report; a bespoke performance report which captures data, provides a commentary and performance rating against all key

performance indicators of relevance to children in care and care experienced young people. Panel members receive a cover report which highlights the areas of concern and invites and encourages member challenge.

- A Children in Care Status Report; a report which sets out numbers, locations and types of placements of Barnsley's children to support members in asking questions about trends and the implications for children's wellbeing.

7.2 Other standard agenda Items:

- Minutes of the Education of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Health of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Care4Us Council

7.3 In addition to the performance management information and data, over the past year the Panel has requested and considered the following thematic reports for discussion and challenge:

Report Title	Date of Meeting
1. Report on the Foster Carers Ball Celebration Event 2. Review of the Pledge	Monday 24 April 2017
1. Breakdown of Children Missing from Care Presentation 2. Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2016-17 3. The Pledge	Monday 12 June 2017
1. Exception Report of Education, Employment & Training (EET) for Care Leavers 2. Bi-Annual Audit of Review Health Assessments for Children in Care in Barnsley	Monday 24 July 2017
1. Exception Report on the Sufficiency of Care Leavers Accommodation 2. Fostering Action Plan 3. Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) Annual Report 4. Perceptions of Care – Key Messages 5. Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Children in Care Pathway	Monday 11 September 2017
1. Outline Programme for National Takeover Day 2. Exception Report of CIC Health including Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) and Access to CAMHS 3. Update on Promoting of the Pledge	Monday 23 October 2017
1. Outline Programme Presentation for the Children in Care Awards Event 2. Progress report on Life Story Work 3. Update on Takeover Day 4. Regulation 44 Visits – Overview and Key Messages 5. Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) Multi-Agency Audit-Return to Care Interview for Children in Care 6. Audit Report for Looked After Children and Pregnancy	Monday 04 December 2017
1. Discussion 'How will we as Corporate Parents use the information provided to support the Care4Us Council over the next 6 months' 2. Regulation 44 Visits Updated Report	Monday 15 th January 2018

Report Title	Date of Meeting
3. A Review of the Bi-Annual Audit 4. Foster Carer Recruitment - North East Area Council Report 5. Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers 6. Health of Looked After Children	
1. Participation Tools for Children in Care 2. Numbers of Children in Care Chairing Their Own LAC Reviews 3. Reporting of Frequency of Visits to Care Leavers 4. Review of Foster Carer Allowances	Monday 5th March 2018

8.0 Progress and Outcomes for Children in Care & Care Leavers in 2018-19

- 8.1 At the end of March 2019 (full year outturn 2018/19) there were 305 children in care (CiC). The rate of children in care at the end of March 2019 was 61.1 per 10,000, just below the 2017/18 national average (64 per 10,000) and well below statistical neighbours (98.1 per 10,000). At the end of March 2019 (full year outturn 2018/19) there were 82 care experienced young people aged 18 to 21 years.
- 8.2 We know that Barnsley has stable communities, with well-established extended family networks that frequently support vulnerable children within the family. This factor has an impact on both the numbers of children with protection plans and the numbers of children in our care, which we continually scrutinise. One of our key strengths is the effectiveness of our permanency planning for children in care. Barnsley ranks first nationally for the percentage of children leaving care who were adopted in the last 12 months. This factor also has an impact on the number of children in care. Our performance evidences that children in care have their care plan reviewed in a timely manner.
- 8.3 Children in care and care experienced young people have strong, stable relationships with their allocated worker who know them well and see them regularly, over and above regulatory requirements. This is evidenced through our quality assurance activity; reviews; case file auditing and direct observations of practice. Our ambition, as set out in our Placement Sufficiency Strategy, is that all children in our care are looked after in family type placements, apart from in very exceptional circumstances where a family setting will not meet their needs. Whilst Barnsley has not experienced the significant rise in numbers of children in care as reported nationally and regionally, the local demand for care placements, particularly for adolescents, has impacted upon our placement stability.
- 8.4 Children in care have attention given to their health needs with regular health needs assessments and dental care to promote their health and wellbeing. However, recording health and dental assessments needs to be consistently better. Waiting times for assessments to CAMHS for children and young people in care has significantly improved this year and we have introduced a Pathway to CAMHS support and consultation for children in care. A priority for 2019/20 will be to support the improvement in the timeliness for treatment.
- 8.5 We have focused on improving the volume and quality of SDQs for our children in care and have increased the numbers completed during the year, achieving 78.6% in Q4 2018/19.

- 8.6 Our children in care running club, led by a children's social worker and former health colleague, continues to be enormously successful, in engaging with growing numbers of children in care and their carers to promote healthy lifestyles and to have fun!
- 8.7 The robust education planning and tracking systems of the virtual school continue to have a measureable impact on positive outcomes for looked after children. The use of real time data for monitoring of attendance and exclusions enables early identification of children where educational engagement is at risk. The weekly virtual school briefing paper is now well embedded and supports the planning of collaborative intervention activity between the virtual school and social care teams to improve outcomes. As a result of this activity we have made real progress in improving school attendance for our children in care. A good example of the impact of this work is the 20 children with persistent absence (PA) attendance rates who have been supported to secure good attendance and are no longer at risk of PA .
- 8.8 Reducing exclusions remains a priority for us. The 2018-2019 autumn term saw a significant reduction in the number of days lost to exclusion compared to the same period in 2017 -18. However rates in the spring term have returned to those of the previous year. The Incremental exclusion policy of one multi academy trust outside Barnsley has had a particularly negative impact on this figure; senior leaders are aware of this and are currently offering challenge to this setting with regard to the impact of its policy on vulnerable pupils.
- 8.9 Statutory outcomes for 2018 indicate a continuing improving picture across almost all key stages. While outcomes in key stage two were below that of previous years, analysis of pupil level data taking into consideration contextual information indicates that the outcomes demonstrate positive achievement for the majority of the cohort. The virtual school has been working closely with the receiving schools of those pupils where this was not the case. 100% of young people secured a post 16 education destination in September 2018. Improving the quality of post 16 education plans has been a priority. A new system is now in place. The impact of this new system and closer monitoring has led to more young people maintaining their education engagement than previously with 95.4% of Y13 remaining successfully engaged to date.
- 8.10 Robust termly tracking through the TPEP system indicates that schools continue to use the pupil premium creatively to provide a wide range of interventions to support outcomes. These include 1to1 tuition, Thrive intervention, art and Lego therapy and access to wider opportunities. Work is currently underway to incorporate annual strengths and difficulties questionnaires into the TPEP system to support schools in identifying children in need of increased mental health and wellbeing intervention and monitor impact. This will also offer triangulated analysis of the returns from carers and children in care currently conducted by health.
- 8.11 The work of the LAC engagement mentor has secured bespoke curriculum offers for young people with complex barriers to education increasing engagement. The virtual school is on track to meeting its developmental aims including broadening the virtual school team to include three specialist posts; an early years education advocate, a KS4/ post 16 advocate and a SEND case officer.

- 8.12 Our performance evidences that children in care have their care plan reviewed in a timely manner.
- 8.13 Children in care benefit from a high standard of life story work and family time is promoted for children in care. We have strong performance for looked after children who have had 3 or more placement moves since entering care. Children who are in the same placement for 2.5 years is however an area we want to improve. The Council's Corporate Parenting Panel has maintained oversight of this performance area. Deep dives evidence positive outcomes for some children in this cohort, i.e. a move to a long term foster placement, a move to a parent or family member. Our Fostering Assessment Team has been hugely successful in working with local communities to recruit new, additional carers. This success has put a strain on our Fostering Support Team who support existing carers and placements. Consequently a service review has been completed which will provide an additional 3 Fostering Social Workers, to support carers and promote stability for children. Whilst Barnsley has not experienced the significant rise in numbers of children in care as reported nationally and regionally, the local demand for care placements, particularly for adolescents, has impacted upon our placement stability.
- 8.14 Monthly management deep dives are undertaken for any child who has been missing from care. Children are tracked and responded to in live time, with their plans and responses overseen by the multi-agency Vulnerable Young People and Missing Panel. We invited North Yorkshire Children's Services to scrutinise and challenge the timeliness and quality of return home interviews when children are reported missing from home and care to inform our improvement plan in response to this recommendation (Ofsted 2018). The methodology for the PIP challenge, conducted on the 8th March 2019 was live auditing of return to care interviews and case files, conducted with the Missing Officers and Social Workers and a live observation of our Vulnerable Young People & Missing Panel. The review identified 8 areas of strength and 4 areas for consideration. These all focused on improving process to support and evidence continuous improvement, i.e. a review of the return interview template to support practitioners in identifying any worries the young person may have and in turn, consideration of how these may be impacting and what would need to happen to prevent further missing episodes. We have learned from the review and the action we plan to take is set out in our CSIP.
- 8.15 Geographically, Barnsley is an area with a high volume of private children in care placement providers. There were 229 children placed in Barnsley by other LAs on the 31/03/2019. We facilitate a Private Placement Provider Forum, which is also attended by SY Police, the Virtual Head teacher and Specialist Nurse for children in care. We also have a multi-agency Vulnerable Young People's Panel which quality assures intervention and planning for any vulnerable young person and young people who go missing.
- 8.16 An area for improvement from the Ofsted 2018 inspection was the regular review of the use of private fostering arrangements to ensure that they remain appropriate to meet children's needs. An action plan is in place to strengthen both our assessments of private foster carers and, our assessment and planning for children subject to these arrangements. All Private Fostering cases have been audited and reviewed since the inspection in 2018 with a focus on permanency. As of 31st March 2019 there were 2 PF cases with only one of the two from the cohort inspected in 2018. Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership maintains oversight of this group of

children given their potential vulnerability, and the action we intend to take to deliver further improvement is set out in the CSIP.

- 8.17 Barnsley Council's children legal team is appropriately resourced. We have good partnership arrangements with CAFCASS and the South Yorkshire Family Courts, who have struggled to list cases within 26 weeks, due to increased demand in other parts of the sub region. Consequently cases are now heard in the Barnsley Magistrates Court which provides significant benefits in respect of timeliness and accessibility.
- 8.18 Mark Riddell MBE, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, provided a follow up visit in December 2018 to the test of assurance he undertook in May 2018. The outcome of the stocktake was positive and consistent with the Ofsted 2018 findings relating to care leavers. Barnsley is cited as an example of good practice for corporate parenting in the DfE National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers: First year report (2018).
- 8.19 Involving young people and supporting their participation is embedded into how we work, plan and deliver our services. The Council champions National Takeover Day a programme now led by what jobs and careers young people are interested and aspire to, both in public services and private business.
- 8.20 Young people attend Cabinet to present their own reports on events. We have active Children in Care Council (Care4Us) and a care experienced young person is a full and equal member of our Corporate Parenting Panel, representing the CIC Council. Care experienced young people have co-produced a new Health Passport for children in care and our Pledge to children in care was designed and led by the Care4Us Council. The Council has a good Local Offer for Care Leavers, co-produced and reviewed with them in 2018/19. Care leavers became exempt from council tax payment in April 2018 following a decision from the Council's Cabinet.
- 8.21 Barnsley Christmas Dinner for Care Leavers Project is entirely led by one of our own care experienced young people. The project supported by Officers and elected members, successfully raised significant funds for Christmas day dinner and festivities in December 2018.
- 8.22 We champion higher aspirations for children in care and care experienced young people. We currently have 5 at University and 12 in further education (college). We also have 37 young people who either hold full-time or part-time employment. This is from a cohort of 82 care experienced young people. We have delivered significant improvement for the numbers of care leavers engaged in employment, education and training. However this remains a priority for us and have already identified our 2019/20 reporting cohort and will hit the ground running with reporting in April 2019; there are 88 care experienced young people in the 2019/20 reporting cohort.
- 8.23 As pushy parents we strongly promote and support regular contact with all our care experienced young people. There is sufficient and suitable accommodation for care leavers but we are developing an even better offer. Our performance is accumulative and the 3 young people who we have judged not to be in suitable accommodation are those placed by the youth justice system in custody and bail hostels.

8.24 We have good relationships with our local housing provider, Berneslai Homes who prioritise all care leavers for housing upon the age of 18 years. We have designated training flats for care leavers and local semi-independent accommodation for vulnerable young people has been recommissioned, now provided by CenterPoint. We promote and support staying put arrangements for all children in care placed with foster carers, irrespective of the fostering agency.

9.00 Key Performance Highlights for 2018/19

<i>LAC Reviews within timescales</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn
Barnsley Performance	96.7%	99.0%	98.5%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Visits Timeliness</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn
Barnsley Performance	91.9%	98.7%	98.8%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Visits Timeliness (as per 'Regulations')</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn
Barnsley Performance	93.2%	99.2%	99.5%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Health Assessment Timeliness</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	99.9%	98.5%	95.4%	95.3%	95.0%

<i>LAC Dental Assessment Timeliness</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	99.2%	99.5%	99.1%	91.2%	89.8%

<i>LAC Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (Percentage of Cohort with valid SDQ Return)</i>	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Q1	18/19 Q2	18/19 Q3	18/19 Q4
Barnsley Performance	61.8%	61.3%	69.9%	70.7%	78.6%

Information collected from Q4 2017/18;

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable (DfE notional target of 75%)

<i>Personal Education Plans (PEPs)</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn

Barnsley Performance	98.7%	98.6%	100.0%
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Information collected from the start of 2015/16;
Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>Termly Personal Education Plans (TPEPs)</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn
Barnsley Performance	96.8%	97.3%	98.0%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17;
Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Education: Attendance (Primary & Secondary)</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	92.9%	93.8%	95.5%	96.1%	95.7%

<i>LAC Placement Stability: 3+ Placement Moves</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	5.6%	3.4%	4.9%	9.6%	10.0%

<i>LAC Placement Stability: Stable Placement 2.5yrs+</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	77.2%	67.9%	64.1%	70.4%	70.0%

<i>Adoptions - Days from 'Placement Order' to 'Adopter Match'</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours
Barnsley Performance	242.2	184.6	212.4	218.6

<i>Care Leavers - Percentage in Education, Training and/or Employment</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	40.0%	61.8%	61.5%	55.6%	51.0%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17
(This information is for 19-21yr olds, in line with the national PI)

<i>Timeliness of Visits to Care Leavers (Percentage of Visits within 8 weeks)</i>	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Q1	18/19 Q2	18/19 Q3	18/19 Q4
Barnsley Performance	74.5%	75.6%	82.6%	78.0%	78.4%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>Care Leavers - Percentage in Suitable Accommodation</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	93.0%	95.6%	95.4%	89.9%	84.0%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17

(This information is for 19-21yr olds, in line with the national PI)

<i>LAC subject to Final Warning, Conviction or Reprimand</i>	16/17 Outturn	17/18 Outturn	18/19 Outturn	17/18 Stat. Neighbours	17/18 National
Barnsley Performance	7.0%	5.0%	3.5%*	5.1%	4.0%

*2018/19 outturn figure is provisional at the time of writing

<i>Ofsted 'Rating' of Children's Residential Units</i>	Newsome Avenue	Spring Lane
Barnsley Performance	'Good'	'Good'

10. Governance Arrangements

10.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established within the Council's Constitution and has specific Terms of Reference which emphasise the above responsibilities and its overarching responsibility to ensure that the Council, through elected members, officers and partner agencies, fulfils its corporate parenting role. Although the Corporate Parenting Panel does not possess Executive powers, the Panel is able to refer matters to the Council's Cabinet to consider any actions which the Panel recommends. The Council's Scrutiny Committee may, in turn, receive any of those issues which are referred to Cabinet and which the Cabinet feels would benefit from an in depth investigation in open session. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Panel annual report is considered by both the Cabinet and the Full Council meeting.

10.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has links with the following groups:

- Children in Care Health Improvement Group – the Chair sits on the Corporate Parenting Panel and formally reports back each meeting. It was agreed to further strengthen this by having one of the Corporate Parenting Panel Councillors also sitting on the group. Minutes of meetings of this group are considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- The Virtual School Governance Group is attended by Officers, the Virtual Head teacher for LAC, members of Corporate Parenting Panel and partners. The group is chaired by Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential).

10.3 Any areas of concern may be referred to Cabinet which may refer for Scrutiny Committee consideration.

11. Children in Care Council

- 11.1 The Children in Care – Care4Us Council directly supports the Corporate Parenting Panel to measure and monitor the effectiveness and quality of ‘Corporate Parenting’ to children and young people; according to the views and experiences of the children who are in care. The panel remains fully committed to listening to the voice of service users and the active involvement of children and young people within the decision-making processes.
- 11.2 The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) with the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and Service Director meets regularly with representatives from this group. This is to ensure that there is strong and direct feedback from children and young people; to be assured that they feel well cared for, safe, are happy, having their needs met and promoted, as well as to hear and respond to any other issues raised by them.

12.0 Continuous Service Improvement Framework

- 12.1 Barnsley had an Ofsted standard ILACS inspection in October 2018 and was found to be ‘good’ across all judgement areas. Barnsley had accurately assessed its effectiveness in 2018. We concluded that we were providing consistently good services to children in Barnsley (Self-Evaluation of Social Work Practice 2018). The Council and the Children’s Partnership welcomed the outcome of the inspection and at the fourth joint BSCB and TEG event on 23rd November 2018 our commitment to maintaining the Continuous Service Improvement Framework (CSIF) was reaffirmed, we know our approach works. There will be no let-up in pace in our work as a partnership to continue to improve and to deliver services that are outstanding to the children and young people of Barnsley. The recommendations from the October 2018 inspection have been addressed in the Continuous Service Improvement Plan (CSIP) alongside our even better ambitions for vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

13.0 Priorities for the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2019- 2020

- Manage effectively the Placement Sufficiency Strategy
- Improve our adoption timeliness from decision to adoption
- Improve school attendance; progress and attainment outcomes for children in care
- Improve the numbers of care leavers engaged in employment, education and training
- Improve transitional planning for disabled children in care and care experienced young people into adulthood
- Improve the timely access to emotional support and treatment for children in care and care experienced young people

14.0 Conclusion

- 14.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is where the responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects for Barnsley children in care ultimately rest.
- 14.2 A good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would. It must address both the difficulties which children who are looked after experience and, the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services.
- 14.3 Like any good parent, we must continually strive to do 'even better' for our children in care and care experience young people, promoting and supporting their aspirations, their potential, their progress and achievements.
- 14.4 Further improvements for children in care and care leavers have been achieved during 2018/19, as evidenced within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan, the Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Reports, the Quality Assurance Framework and activity (case file audits, observations of practice) and as measured against key performance indicators.

See Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Work Programme in 2019-20