

**What Makes The Difference?
TOOLS and RESOURCES**

NAME OF TOOL/RESOURCE: Corporate Parenting Action Plan

NAME AND REGION OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION THAT DEVELOPED THIS TOOL/RESOURCE:
Warwickshire County Council

Purpose and brief description of tool/resource:

Set out the actions and activities to implement Warwickshire's Corporate Parenting Policy.

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**Contact details
for further
information
about this
tool/resource**

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Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource

**Positive impact of
this tool/resource:**

Not known.

OUR CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN: PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT: OUTCOMES

Outcome	Action	To be achieved by:	Responsible agency/cies	Performance	Timescale	Progress September 2007
Being Healthy	The Integrated Care Pathway approach is introduced across the county for all looked after children.	The appointment of dedicated assessment services for children in care in the Leamington, Warwick and Stratford districts of the county	Warwickshire PCT		October 2007	COMPLETED There is a dedicated doctor/nurse led service for children in care in Warwickshire. The procedures around the Health Care Pathway are being updated in light of changes in PCT arrangements.
		All children in care have their health needs adequately assessed and services are provided to meet assessed needs.	Warwickshire PCT	2006/07 Health & Dental check average 80.6%	April 2007	COMPLETED The Care Pathway requirements/paperwork is being re-launched within Children's Services to reflect the revised operational arrangements.
		Using identified health needs of children, develop appropriate support, guidance and training to carers and staff on health issues highlighted	Warwickshire PCT		October 2007	CONTINUING An audit of health needs is planned and the findings from this will be progressed from September 2007. Health promotion material will be developed for carers and children in care arising from this
	That there are positive outcomes resulting from dedicated CAMHS service for looked after children being introduced.	In line with the Service Specification for the CAMHS-LAC Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children in care receive timely CAMHS services according to the assessment of their need ➤ Carers and others have prompt access to CAMHS advice 	Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust/CYP&F		April 2007	COMPLETED The Service Level Agreement has been in place since April 2006. All posts have been recruited to and multiagency Panels have been meeting and initial user feedback is positive. The service is subject to ongoing review, monitoring and development.

	Arrangements are put in place to ensure that looked after children have access to initiatives supporting health and emotional well being.	To ensure a consistent approach a review of direct work services to children will determine whether support is provided in the most appropriate way that supports children in dealing with trauma and in developing resilience.	CYP&F		July 2007	COMPLETED Children's Services have now defined and agreed their quality standards regarding direct work with children. A budget bid to increase staffing capacity is being submitted to enable this to be achieved.
		Training is delivered to staff and carers about the impact of early emotional trauma and how resilience may be nurtured for children in long term care	CYP&F		July 2007	COMPLETED 4 courses are available to staff on communicating effectively with children.
		With the contribution of young people a development plan will be devised and implemented that will promote healthy lifestyle choices and wellbeing for children in care in line with the UN Convention Rights of the Child.	Warwickshire PCT/CYP&F		January 2008	COMPLETED A successful multi agency event took place on 19 June. Since this a submission has been approved by the GOWM for initial funding to promote the well being agenda. This will include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wellbeing events for children in care ➤ Promoting Positive Activities – Voucher Scheme ➤ Well being 'kite mark' for foster carers
Staying Safe	Continuing priority is given to reducing placement instability and providing care arrangements to meet the principles of this policy.	Implementing a Permanency Planning Protocol and the use of a Toolkit that will focus attention on planning for the child's longer term placement needs that will ensure that placements proceed on the basis of preparation and the involvement of the child/young person.	CYP&F		April 2007	COMPLETED The Children in Need Division have been approached to participate in a research project with the University of East Anglia as having in place effective model for permanency planning.

		A review of the arrangements for recruiting, supporting and training permanency/long term foster carers will determine whether different arrangements are required that will promote stability outcomes	CYP&F		September 2007	PROGRESSING This work will now be included within a wider review of fostering arrangements and priorities and will be discussed by Divisional Management Group – Children in Need in October
		A review and the development of strategies that will prevent the disruption of foster placements by ensuring that the support needs of the child and carers throughout the duration of the placement are addressed.	CYP&F	2006/7 Adoption 8.5% Family placements of LAC 92.6% Long term placement stability 67.3%	December 2007	PROGRESSING An initial collation of data relating to disruption in foster care has been drawn together. This requires ongoing work so that support issues can be identified and appropriate actions taken
		Where children are placed out of county the principles and outcome statements in the policy will be strengthened and reflected in the commissioning and contracting arrangements.	CYP&F	2006/7 Distance of LAC from home 12.3%	April 2008	PROGRESSING The working group has concluded its work and the report is awaited to presented to Divisional Management Group – Children in Need in November

Enjoying and Achieving	Ensure that looked after children are reaching their full educational potential, both in key stage and examination performance and using all opportunities provided in schools.	The TELAC service ensures effective ways of working that will optimise the amount of educational support to looked after children thereby reducing exclusion.	CYP&F (TELAC)	2006/7 (25YP) GCSE 58.8% at least 1 GCSE A-G 4% at least 5 GCSE's A-C Absence from school (25 days+) 9.9%	September 2007	COMPLETED The educational attainment and achievements for children in care will be enhanced through the Virtual School Head Pilot from September 2007. As a national pilot stretched outcomes and robust monitoring arrangements are in place. Work is ongoing as part of the county Behaviour Strategy regarding support for vulnerable children. There is now an established system in place for monitoring exclusions Independent Education Advocacy Worker from Barnardos in place.
		Looked after children at key stage 2 and 3 will be entered for end of key stage assessments unless exceptional circumstances apply.	CYP&F (TELAC)		April 2007	COMPLETED This is an ongoing requirement and all children have been reviewed in relation to key stage assessments by their TELAC worker
		That a strategy will be put in place that will closely track and ensure appropriate support and intervention is coordinated on behalf of the child ensuring effective communication between the child or young persons carer, social worker, school and TELAC service at critical educational 'key' stages particularly in the lead up to key stage 4 (GCSE)	CYP&F (TELAC)		January 2008	PROGRESSING The work being currently being completed on clarifying roles and responsibilities of ESW, TELAC and SW's will serve to strengthen communication and coordination in this area. It was also now need to incorporate information about the Virtual School Head and Private Tutoring Pilots A leaflet will be produced by December 2007.
		Ensuring that a current Personal Educational Plan (PEP) is available at each looked after review and is reviewed accordingly.	CYP&F (TELAC)		January 2007	COMPLETED The format and style of Personal Education Plans is being reviewed and is to be discussed/signed of by Divisional Management Group – Children in Need on 11 September. Procedures for completing PEP's are amended accordingly

		Increasing the number of children in care who enter further education or employment through strengthened Pathway Planning and multi-agency arrangements	CYP&F		September 2007	COMPLETED Arrangements are now in place between TELAC, Leaving Care Services and Connexions that will ensure better targeting of Connexions provision for young people without positive destinations
		To develop systems and track post 16 education and training for young people to ensure that they access facilities that support their ongoing educational development	CYP&F		April 2007	PROGRESSING as above and through clarifying responsibilities and improving information exchange channels with connexions, to include post qualification monitoring.
	The children in care have access to social and leisure opportunities to help them grow and mature.	The care planning process will ensure that the child/young person has access to opportunities that support their development, interests and confidence	CYP&F		April 2008	COMPLETED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Foster Care Conference planned for March 2008 will focus on 'aspirations' for children in care ➤ The Wellbeing Agenda includes promoting Positive Activities through a voucher scheme ➤ A review is being conducted as to the use and take up of the Passport to Leisure Scheme by foster carers and their families in Nuneaton/Bedworth
		To review the arrangements for providing continuing support and life skills training for young people during the transition to independent living and leaving care	CYP&F		September 2007	COMPLETED Life Skills workshops are available to young people via Barnardos, the evaluation is positive and will be continued
		Key managers within the county council will put in place an action plan that will deliver social and leisure opportunities for children in care	CYP&F		September 2007	COMPLETED (to be reviewed in light of new district arrangements) This action is being progressed alongside the strategy for promoting Healthy Lifestyle Choices and Wellbeing

Positive Contribution	There is evidence that looked after children play an active part in their reviews.	The involvement of young people in their reviews either directly at the review meeting or independently outside of the formal review increases to 90%	CYP&F	2006/7 Participation in reviews 91% (Projected 96.7%) LAC Reviews on time 72% (Projected 89.9%)	September 2007	COMPLETED
		The circumstances of non involvement in the review process are known and recorded/reported	CYP&F		September 2007	COMPLETED
		The Consultation Booklet for looked after children about the review process is revised and distributed	CYP&F		September 2007	COMPLETED
	Looked After children will be involved in helping design services and practices to meet their needs, and will be in regular discussions with elected members to ensure that their responsibilities are being met.	To continue initiatives that seek to ascertain the views of young people about their care experience	CYP&F		April 2007	COMPLETED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Care Leavers Forum remains an active Group. ➤ Members produced the Corporate Parenting Leaflet for Young People. ➤ A Young Peoples Group now meets in Rugby. ➤ The SIGMA initiative continues to provides opportunities for children of all ages to comment on their experiences ➤ Successful consultation event 17/08/07 further event planned 23/09/07 ➤ The policy regarding engagement of young people in staff recruitment have been approved.

		To train and support young people in working with the CYP&F Directorate in service development	CYP&F		September 2007	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Warwickshire Care Leavers Forum supports young people who contribute to service development ➤ The Leaving Care Coordinator is reviewing issues of training and support to young people this in light of the White Paper recommendations
		To develop opportunities for elected members to meet young people in care	CYP&F Elected members		April 2008	<p>CONTINUING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Elected Members Steering Group has been established. ➤ Further elected members event with young people is planned to focus on aspects of the Care Matters – Time for Change agenda ➤ Work will need to start on the 'Pledge' to Children in Care and setting up of Children In Care Council
		To explore the opportunities for developing a befriending /mentoring scheme for young people in care and leaving care.	CYP&F		March 2008	<p>PROGRESSING</p> <p>The Leaving Care Development Manager is now working with the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation to try to secure alternative funding to develop a mentoring project, as the Rainer Foundation application was not successful.</p>
Achieving Economic Well Being	There is a coordinated programme of training, work experience and employment opportunities for looked after children provided through the county council.	All young people leaving full time education receive information about training and employment opportunities available across the county council and partner agencies	WCC CYP&F	2006/07 Education and employment at 19 0.71%	July 2008	<p>PROGRESSING</p> <p>A working group is in place to develop this programme. This includes a representative from Environment and Economy Directorate</p>

	That looked after children are provided with care and supported housing arrangements that reduce exposure to harmful influences.	Through working with local partners and organisations to plan for and implement a housing strategy that will meet the future placement needs of children leaving care.	CYP&F		January 2008	<p>PROGRESSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting People have completed research on the current and projected needs of care leavers that have informed proposed service development in Nuneaton/Bedworth. ➤ The Rugby Housing Strategy Group have recognised the needs of care leavers within the borough. ➤ Within the RIGHT2BCARED4 submission it is hoped that an Accommodation Partnership Officer and Placement Support Youth Worker for Vulnerable Young People will be appointed
		To review, develop and improve the managerial coordination of the supported lodgings placements scheme	CYP&F-		September 2007	<p>PROGRESSING</p> <p>This action is linked to the RIGHT2BCARED4 submission and will be developed in light of the White Paper requirements in relation to 18-21 placements option for young people who have been in care. A submission will be made to pilot this aspect of the White Paper in January 2008.</p>