



MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

2 SEPTEMBER 2021

MEDWAY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Portfolio holder	Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, Lead Member for Children's Services, Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board
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Summary

Medway is ambitious for all of its children and young people, especially those for which it is a corporate parent. This report outlines the work of the Medway Corporate Parenting Board between April 2020 and March 2021, detailing key services that work to ensure improved outcomes for our children and young people.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Government in the report 'Keep on Caring' sets out what it means to be a good corporate parent. This states that 'Local authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers (relevant and former relevant children). In this context local authorities are often referred to as being the 'corporate parent' of these children and young people, and the critical question that local authorities ask in adopting this approach is: 'would this be good enough for my child?'
- 1.2. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced corporate parenting principles, which comprise of seven needs, that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked after children or care leavers (collectively referred to as looked after children and young people).
- 1.3. Medway Council is the corporate parent of the children in its care, wherever the children are placed. All Councillors have a responsibility in fulfilling this role. The Council exercises this function through a Corporate Parenting Board that was established in 2003.

2. Background

- 2.1 This annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board provides the opportunity for review and challenge of the performance of CPB in relation to securing good outcomes for Children in our Care (CIOC). It is at the request of our young people that they are no longer referred to as LAC (Looked after Children)
- 2.2 Medway's CPB is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 2.3 The current version of the terms of reference was presented to the CPB and agreed on 2 October 2020.
- 2.4 This report covers a period where restrictions were in place because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Children in our Care were not always able to attend school but did benefit from computers provided and support to access home working studies. Some Children in our Care were able to access school, as they were considered vulnerable pupils, particularly during the first Lockdown period. Children in our Care were able to access essential health appointments, although the Initial Health Assessments were mostly undertaken virtually. It was more difficult for our Children to access routine dental checks. We continued to promote contact for children with their families, either in person or virtually. Visits to our Children in Care were undertaken mostly virtually, unless it was decided by Managers that children needed to be seen in person.

3. Structure of the Board and how it carries out its work

- 3.1 The CPB meets bi-monthly with two sub-groups reporting into the Board.
- 3.2 The two sub-groups are Health of LAC and 16 Plus and Care Leavers which are multi-agency sub-groups chaired by a senior officer. The Chairs of the sub-groups are core members of the Board.
- 3.3 Representatives from the Medway Children's and Young People's Council (MCYPC) share their news and issues, as well as being supported to offer challenge and contribution to the work of the group. Where children or young people cannot attend in person, their views are represented through the Young Lives Foundation (YLF).
- 3.4 The Lead Member for Children's Services, Director of Children and Adults, Assistant Director Children's Social Care, Head of Corporate Parenting and Virtual School Head Teacher attend the MCYPC meetings, which are led and chaired by the young person.
- 3.5 The CPB scrutinises a performance dashboard of data at each meeting in addition to the performance reports of each sub-group.

4. Membership

- Lead Member for Children's Services (Chair)
- Representative from MCYPC/YLF

- Young Lives Apprentice
- Director Children and Adults
- Assistant Director Children's Social Care
- Assistant Director Frontline Services (Corporate CMT Champion)
- Head of Corporate Parenting
- Elected Members as directed by the Cabinet Advisory Group
- Representatives from Health, Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
- Designated Consultant Nurse for Looked After Children
- Virtual Head Teacher
- Group Manager – 16+ Care Leavers Service
- Children in Care/Care Leaver representative
- Head of Public Health
- Head of Children's Partnership Commissioning
- Police representative
- One foster carer representative
- One adopter representative
- Other officers to be required to attend as necessary e.g., housing, further education, children's commissioning

5. Progress of the Board Against Corporate Parenting Board Priorities

5.1. **CP Priority 1 – Act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people**

5.1.1 The Board membership includes the Designated Consultant Nurse for Looked After Children from our co-terminus Clinical Commissioning Group. This allows the meeting to have a strategic relationship with health services and hear about operational delivery across a range of health functions, to support children and young people in the care of the Council.

5.1.2 Each child or young person entering the care system requires a statutory initial health assessment to be completed within 20 working days and review health assessments are completed every 6 months for under 5's and annually for 5- to 18-year-olds. The Clinical Commissioning Group commissions Medway Community Healthcare to provide the specialist health team to undertake the statutory health work. The team continues work towards sustaining the improvements in performance made over the year. At the end of quarter 4 the year-to-date performance was 86% completion of initial health assessments within the statutory timescale. Review health assessments performance, year to date was 92% for under 5-year-olds and 94% for those aged 5 to 18.

5.1.3 The Medway Young People's Wellbeing Service assesses all referrals of looked after children within 5 days. If placed on a treatment pathway, they are regularly reviewed and contacted by NELFT. The service comprises four clinical pathways: Mood and Anxiety; Behaviour and Conduct; Substance Misuse; and Sexual Trauma/Complex needs. A fifth pathway is available to Medway children and young people – Neurodevelopmental – that is delivered across Kent and Medway. The Medway manager is working with managers in children's social care to ensure issues and queries are resolved quickly; and

Medway are looking at providing additional support to foster carers around supporting children with mental health and/or behavioral issues.

5.2. CP Priority 2 – Encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings

CP Priority 3 – Take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.

5.2.1 Each Board meeting, there is an update on the wide range of activities and work undertaken by the Medway Children and Young People’s Council and support from the Young Lives Foundation ensures that the young people contribute actively throughout, including decisions made. Young Lives Foundation and the 16+ Service are developing an improved working relationships and how information and resources can be shared and accessed. This is a positive working relationship and allows young people direct access from one to the other.

5.2.2 MCYPC monitor how successful the Pledge is at every CPB and MCYPC meeting, with the local authority being responsive to suggestions and actions.

5.2.3 In addition, the Board have received intelligence from the Council’s use of ‘Mind of My Own’ (MOMO). This is an app, which young people can access to share their wishes and feelings. Workers are also able to use the app to evidence the views, wishes and feelings of their young people more easily.

5.2.4 The experience of using this app gives young people more confidence to speak up, attend meetings and articulate problems. Once they have signed up, they can use it on their own anytime, 24/7. The app helps young people prepare for any upcoming meetings they have, report problems, share good news etc.

5.2.5 The information below provides a breakdown of the use of MOMO across Medway.

Accounts

Currently 250 YP’s have One app accounts

There are 353 workers with an account account

One app usage

STATEMENT TYPE	SENT BY YOUNG PEOPLE	SENT BY WORKERS	TOTAL
Totals	551	250	801
Change	23	0	23
Conference	2	6	8
Foster Care Review	23	10	33
My Education	6	0	6
My Life	16	12	28
My Wellbeing	11	6	17

Pathway	0	2	2
Preparation	111	34	145
Problem	63	6	69
Share Good News	98	18	116
Worker Visit	54	61	115

Number of One Statements sent (by workers and young people – 761
Number of Express Statements sent (by workers) – 159
Total of statements sent to Medway Children’s Services (One and Express)
- 920

5.2.6 Percentage of Topics chosen in Express Statements

About Me – 38%
My Day – 22%
My Education – 19%
My Health – 10%
My Life – 11%

5.3. CP Priority 4 – Help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.

5.3.1 There is now a dedicated service focusing on vulnerable adolescents and on children in care, supporting permanency planning and care proceedings. The leaving care service has been expanded to include provision for young people aged 16 plus. This will enhance pathway and transition planning so young people are better and more consistently supported into adulthood.

5.3.2 The Council has welcomed advice and learning from other Local Authority partners in practice. Essex County Council has undertaken work with us to improve our children in care service; children with disabilities service and our fostering service.

5.3.3 An improvement board has continued to scrutinise and challenge with its chair, Rory Patterson, who took up this role in March 2020. He recently retired from the role of DCS in Thurrock. The board’s role is driving, challenging and supporting the implementation of the improvement plan.

5.3.4 The management of the Exploitation Champions was taken on by the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) which was established in September 2019. Due to the crossover of vulnerabilities of children to exploitation, these champions focus on CSE as well as gangs, criminal exploitation, online safeguarding, youth violence and missing children. Their role entails regular attendance at meetings where examples of good practice and local learning is shared. The champions support the dissemination of learning and take part in learning activities. Champions ensure that Exploitation awareness enables workers in children’s services to recognise the risk indicators of different forms of harm to children and young people “including sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect”. Their role is to motivate services to be alert and responsive to risk.

5.3.5 The MSCP runs regular multi-agency CSE training; it ensures that the champions' training needs are prioritised to ensure Reflective Supervision and case direction. Further training will be developed to support the champions as need is identified.

5.4. CP Priority 5 – Promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people

5.4.1 The Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) service has been brought in house and now forms part of Early Help and Targeted Services. The focused areas are young people in Medway of Academic Age 16/17 years and priority is given to those young people who are known to the YOT, SEND or Children in Care Teams.

5.4.2 The IAG Team have a named adviser as first point of communication for young people who are Children in our Care. Excellent working practices have increased the awareness of those at risk of being Not in education, employment or Training (NEET) within Children in our Care and support being implemented promptly. The IAG team attends a monthly meeting whereby cases are discussed, and plans put in place. This is also an opportunity to update destinations and progression.

5.4.3 The IAG team has also created a virtual platform through social media to enable young people to access support. This development has been noted by the Department of Education as a 'very exciting piece of work'. The virtual platform continues to go from strength to strength seeing over 3000 members joining.

5.4.4 A new skills and employability plan has been developed ensuring Children in our Care is a focused area of work and a working group has been established to ensure there is a corporate response to ensure this is a priority for the local authority. This is reported to the officer's board and further onto members.

5.4.5 The Virtual School Head reports regularly to Corporate Parenting Board on educational progress made by children in care across their current key stage. The Virtual School Head is managed within Provider Services.

5.4.6 In January 2019 Medway Virtual School appointed a Deputy Head and in September 2020 a Senior Teacher and Virtual School Officer were appointed enabling greater capacity within the team with opportunities to extend support and guidance.

5.4.7 Due to the onset of the Corona Virus Pandemic attainment results were not required as advised by the DfE. As outlined in many associated reports Medway Virtual School met the challenge of enabling all Children in our Care and care experienced young people to access education. Supplying digital devices, arranging additional tuition sessions and leading on training and support for professionals became the new priority during the pandemic and associated lockdown periods.

5.4.8 From September 2021, the Virtual School will resume analysing the progress of year groups and key stages, the progress of individual children are tracked through the Virtual School and work of the sub-group. Additional support is provided for individual children as required to promote continued progress. This is achieved by:

- Regular briefings and training for school staff in order to upskill professionals working with children and young people that are looked after.
- Links with teams across the Council have been strengthened to minimise any delay in securing a school place and supporting pupils to stay in school. Clear processes around the rationale for requesting a change of school place have been developed and shared with professionals. The rationale includes capturing pupil voices and the viewpoints of professionals and carers as well as corporate parents.
- Annual data captures for all year groups are more robust and are used to inform pupil premium, plus spending against identified areas of need.
- A review process has been established to ensure that pupil premium spend is matched to provision that is evidenced based and targeted towards closing the gap in attainment. Documents are soon to be rated as part of the Quality Assurance process using Ofsted criteria.
- Improved working with schools ensures that pupil premium plus has a much clearer focus on closing the gap in attainment.
- Expansion of the capacity of the virtual school has meant that direct support for social workers, schools and foster carers has increased.
- Implementation of universal credit joint working with Job Centre Plus (JCP) to support care leavers accessing benefits. Joint protocol in place working well. There is a lead professional within the JCP who leads on supporting care leavers.
- Support with driving lessons for care leavers has been established and details are contained in the Local Offer for Care Leavers.

5.4.9 The Board heard the following examples of opportunities being encouraged for young people:

- All apprenticeships are advertised and promoted via the Leaving Care Facebook page.
- Two work experience opportunities have been secured for two care leavers studying law within Medway Legal services this summer.
- Medway Council Youth Service and the Job Centre Plus (JCP) have collaborated to develop a programme to support young people accessing education and training called Be Yourself which was launched in November 2018. The most recent figures (from September 2020) 32 referrals have been made to the programme. 17 young people disengaged with the programme for a number of different reasons; 10 moved onto education, training or employment with a further 5 still engaged on the programme. 17 of these young people were over 18, and 15 were under 18.
- The Princes Trust also launched a mentoring service for young people aged 18 who are currently not in education training and employment, which care leavers can directly access.
- There are 11 care leavers accessing higher education.

5.4.10 Medway Council held in October 2020 an event entitled Brighter Futures, which consisted of a conference centred around telling businesses about the Care Leaver Covenant, and how they can help and benefit from working with Care Leavers:

- Business people were particularly inspired after hearing about 3 young people's challenge to enter the workplace.
- The afternoon was a virtual mock interview session, which greatly benefitted our young people and led to one job offer.

5.4.11 Medway Council has recently created a £1m employment scheme grant programme for Medway businesses, and as part of that have created an Aspirations Officer who will help Care Leavers take advantage of all of these schemes. Their sole aim will be to support Education, Employment and Training Outcomes.

5.4.12 Work is underway to encourage even more businesses to sign the Care Leaver Covenant, whilst Medway Council also works toward being an exemplar employer.

5.4.13 There are a number of other projects and programmes taking place that Care Leavers can take advantage of, for instance the Medway Supported Employment Programme, for those with learning disabilities and the Medway Apprenticeship Advice Service

5.5. CP Priority 6- Make sure those children and young people are safe and stable in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

5.5.1 Children's needs are best served in their own families where this can be safely supported. Early Help and Targeted Services have supported a number of children who have been on the 'edge of care'. The Board has heard about how the service has been responsive to the needs of families and has positively kept children at home. This reunification strategy will be a key focus for the Board in the next annual work programme – supporting children to remain or return home.

5.5.2 Increased scrutiny is in place to ensure permanence planning is considered when any child is accommodated and through proceedings. Weekly tracking meetings are led by the Group Manager (Children in our Care) and supported by the Adoption and Fostering Group Manager and review all children in Pre-Proceedings, in Court Proceedings, and those who are s20 so that the plan for each child is considered until the child returns home or an order is made. Post order, permanence is monitored through LAC reviews and supervision to ensure plans are progressed in a timely way.

5.5.3 The rate of children leaving care to adoption or special guardianship is comparable to the national averages although Medway is slightly below for Special Guardianship. In 2020/21 10% of those children who left care were adopted (14 children) and 8% left care to Special Guardians (11 children).

- 5.5.4 Medway Council approved 13 adoptive households between April 2020 and November 2020. From April 2020 all new prospective adopters who expressed an interest became the adopters of Adoption Partnership South East, the Regional Adoption Agency spanning Kent County Council, London Borough of Bexley and Medway Council. Under the legal partnership agreement those already in the process remained the adopters for each individual authority for a period of time, hence those approved by Medway Council. Two of the Medway families were foster carers adopting a child in their care. From November 2020 when Adoption Partnership went live to May 2021, there were 48 approvals of adopters by the Partnership. This represents a huge amount of work by the new Adoption Partnership and is proving beneficial to Medway children for whom the plan is adoption. Given the numbers of adopters and the range of potential matches, Medway children are being matched and placed more quickly.
- 5.5.5 There has been a total of 22 Medway children placed for adoption in 2020/21. There were delays in placing children during the early months of the pandemic which had a profound impact, and placements already being considered were delayed nationally while new protocols were devised to protect the adults and children involved from risk of infection. 14 of the 22 children were placed following the formation of Adoption Partnership. The figures show that Medway children have benefitted from the formation of Adoption Partnership and are now being placed more quickly, given the numbers of adopters as described above. There are 3 Medway children who are being profiled nationally due to their complex health and developmental needs. 13 of those placed between April 2020 and March 2021 have already been adopted.
- 5.5.6 Adoption Partnership South East is highly ambitious to ensure that overall timescales for adoption and performance remain good. The average time between a Medway child entering care and moving in with their prospective adoptive family has decreased to 408 days; and the average time between the Court giving authority to place and moving in with their family is 218 days. However, it should be noted that the pandemic has affected court timescales considerably in the last year and the impact of this will be reflected in timescales for some months to come.
- 5.6. CP Priority 7 – Prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.**
- 5.6.1 The 16 Plus and Care Leavers Subgroup have developed a multi-agency action plan to address the needs of Medway’s Care leavers. This has included the refresh of the Local Offer and is considering other offers such as a rent guarantor scheme to support Care Leavers accessing privately rented properties, and membership for care leavers to the “Ask Jan” scheme as part of the Rees Foundation.
- 5.6.2 Work streams of the subgroup have included: - the development and publishing of the Care Leavers Offer, which involved consultation with young people and partners and was launched in October 2018, and refreshed in May 2021, ongoing work with Commissioning around provision of accommodation options for our Care Leavers.

5.6.3 There has been an increase in interest from colleagues within Medway Council about their corporate parenting role and how they can help support care experienced young people. Offers have been made to include in the Local Offer to Care Leavers including offering discounted travel to care leavers by extending the Medway Youth Pass to 25 instead of ending at 18. The Head of sport, leisure, tourism and heritage is proposing free gym and swim membership to all care leavers up to 25, as well as lifeguard and customer advisor courses for care leavers with an offer of shifts following completion within one of the Medway centres. Due to financial restraints these offers have not come to fruition as yet.

5.6.4 In October 2019, the Leaving Care Hub was launched as a safe, friendly and warm environment for care experienced young people to come and see their worker, spend time doing activities and getting on the spot support. Following the pandemic restrictions some activities have been put on hold but the intention to hold Education, Training and Employment (ETE) sessions with partners remains a priority, as well as other partners such as Health and Accommodation. The space will be shared with the Adolescent Service and discussions are in place about the joint working with the Job Coaches, DWP, local business and local education providers. PA's and social workers focus on ETE within pathway plan reviews and seek to encourage and support young people in achieving their goals. All ETE opportunities are promoted on the service Facebook page and within the Local Offer, where able.

5.6.5 Ensuring care leavers have access to opportunities for employment and education remains challenging and whilst Medway was below the national average in 2020/21, a plan has been developed to address this.

	National 2018-19	SNS 2018-19	SE 2018-19	Medway 2018-19	Medway 2019-20	Medway 2020-21
% of former relevant young people aged 19-21 who were in education, employment or training	52%	52 %	54%	49%	48%	38%

5.6.6 There is a transitions pathway that works specifically with young people leaving care up to the age of 21 and makes sure they can readily access their health history and support them with ongoing health needs. The new contract moves from one nurse for all care leavers to six nurses to support all children past 18 years.

5.6.7 A Health Offer for Care Leavers has been published by health colleagues. This includes details of local services available to care leavers within Medway as well as where to go for advice or guidance on health issues. A Health History episode has also been added to Mosaic to continue the pathway from health reviews for children in care under 18.

- 5.6.8 Health remains a focus for the service and there is positive partnership working between the 16+ Service and Health partners, with a new and published Health Offer for Care Leavers, and regular meetings to look at the needs of young people and how best to meet them.
- 5.6.9 There is a proposal in place for scoping the possibility of having an Emotional Wellbeing practitioner within the service to support with the mental health and wellbeing of care leavers. Within the service there is a Parent Support practitioner working with care leavers who are parents offering 1-1 sessions and when able, group sessions, focusing on play, development and general parenting support and guidance.
- 5.6.10 There is now a team manager within the 16+ Service who has a lead role on Participation & Engagement, and Transitions. The focus is on engaging young people, partner agencies and networks in what the Council offers to young people and how. The Participation and Engagement Lead Role within the 16+ service is responsible for facilitating and increasing young people participation and will support the development and delivery of a strategic approach to engagement so that it becomes an integral part of the Service and whole Council. This manager will be pivotal in working with young people, partners and staff to develop insight to drive an Outstanding service provision. They are focusing on maintaining and actively building on the current Local Offer to Care Leavers and developing new participation approaches to reduce isolation, support voices being heard and ensure that young people can access targeted support and resources, from Medway Council and partner agencies. The Manager will actively engage and support consultation activity to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Service and the Council are influenced by the views and experiences of young people. There is a link between emotional and physical health, and sustainability of education, training and employment success.
- 5.6.11 The Board has heard that Leaving Care staff continue to work closely with Jobcentre Plus to track and support young care leavers seeking work and those who are currently unable to seek work due to health-related matters. It was explained that following the pandemic there will be an increasingly competitive and challenging employment market therefore the Council, through this continued work will ensure we have the right information, advice and guidance for our care experienced young people accessing job opportunities.
- 5.6.12 The Skills & Employment Programme Manager and 16+ Service Group Manager are working together on offering Mentoring training to members of Medway Council and the Corporate Parenting Board who would like to become a Mentor for care leavers. This will ensure young people are supported in their areas of interest by people within the council with the relevant interests and expertise.
- 5.6.13 An Aspirations Officer role within the 16+ service is being advertised in August 2021. This role will be expected to support care experienced young people to gain education opportunities and to help them find employment or training, with a particular focus on enabling young people to access opportunities generated by the Medway Skills & Employment Grants Scheme. This role will

support young people aged 16-25 who are in care or have left care, and who need advice and guidance on what they can access and how to do so. It will include working with personal advisors, as the allocated worker, to support young people with accessing ETE opportunities, preparing good quality CV's and applications, preparing for interviews, and to advise on any work/education related issues that may arise. This role will be expected to offer activities, support, information and guidance and informal learning opportunities to young people aged 16-25 years who are care experienced, to support them in accessing education, training and employment opportunities, and to work with partners and agencies to bring together skills and expertise to support young people in achieving their ETE aspirations.

5.6.14 In respect of Care Leavers accessing suitable accommodation, Medway continues to maintain performance significantly above the national average.

Care Leavers in suitable accommodation on 19th, 20th or 21st birthday	National 16/17	National 17/18	Medway 17/18	Medway 18/19	Medway 19/20	Medway 20/21 (YTD)
	84%	84%	94%	92%	94%	86%

5.6.15 A Leaving Care Housing Protocol has been developed jointly between the 16+ Service and the Housing Department setting out the entitlements for care experienced young people and the processes in place to support with finding suitable accommodation when it is the right time for the young person to do so independently.

5.6.16 An area that remains a priority focus is the quality of the accommodation available to care experienced young people when they move on to independent living. The joint housing protocol with Medway Council housing department will strengthen this area and support young adults in their move on plans, as well as ensure the accommodation is of sound quality.

5.6.17 It is clear there is a link between secure, stable accommodation and Education, Training and Employment opportunities for care experienced young people. One struggles to be maintained without the other. The 16 + Service is better able to monitor the link between the two and support the transition at an earlier stage with clear planning and partnership agreement. From a thematic focus group held in November 2020 care experienced young people told us some of the key issues they face which included lack of sufficient preparation for the reality of independent living, financial pressures, social isolation and loneliness, and mental health difficulties. These are not new issues and are within our remit to support and alleviate.

5.6.18 Following additional funding from the Government as part of the National Rough Sleeping Strategy a specialist Personal Advisor with a lead role on accommodation has been appointed to focus on reducing homelessness and identifying the risk of homelessness earlier. Joint working relationships with the local prisons and probation services, the Accommodations team, Adult services and other partners means support plans can be formulated. The

specialist Personal Advisor has completed tenancy accreditation training and is providing weekly training sessions for young people to support them in developing their knowledge of tenancies and preparation for independent living.

5.6.19 It has been identified there is a need to do some work with local private landlords where private renting is the planned route. Supporting local estate agents and their landlords to understand the needs of care experienced young people and their role is vital. One barrier faced is the number of private landlords who will not accept benefits, this immediately takes away a high number of private rental options which may be in the right area for family and friend links, work or education opportunities, or simply be the desired area for the young person.

5.6.20 In January 2020 Medway Council has started to pay Council Tax for care experienced young people when they have their own tenancy. This will undoubtedly only have a positive impact on young people. There is continued joint working taking place to ensure the process is as easy and stress-free as possible. There is now a council tax for care leavers policy in place giving clear direction on how young people can be exempt from their council tax.

5.6.21 There are currently 7 young people aged 16-21 who are in custody either on remand or serving sentences of whom two are under eighteen. There are 6 care leavers in prison who are over the age of 21 but remain open to the service. There is a protocol in place with Kent and Medway Probation whereby all parties work together to support care leavers on leaving custody. Leaving care is currently working with local adult prisons to develop a protocol to identify and support Medway care leavers in prison.

5.6.22 An increasingly high number of young people who are deemed sick/disabled are being offered support tailored to their individual needs via the Job Centre Plus, to work towards EET opportunities.

6. Risk management

6.1 The key issue facing CPB in its oversight and challenge function is the capacity and financial pressures posed by the increase in Children in our Care population on all service areas supporting looked after children, and ensuring that as effective corporate parents, this does not hinder the care, support, aspirations or continued improvement in outcomes for our children in care.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

8. Legal implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the annual report and the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Medway's Annual Fostering Report for 2020-2021

Appendix B: Report of Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency to Medway Children's Improvement Board

Appendix C: Looked After Children Health Report to the Corporate Parenting Board

Background Papers

None