



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2016

:

**Committee:
Young People's Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2016

Time: 10.00 am

Venue:

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of the Committee

Joyce Barrow (Chairman)
Peggy Mullock (Vice Chairman)
Andy Boddington
Hannah Fraser
Vince Hunt

Nic Laurens
Kevin Pardy
John Price
Robert Tindall
Kevin Turley

Co-opted Members (Voting):

Austin Atkinson
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Diocese of Hereford (CE)
Parent Governor – Secondary Schools
Parent Governor – Primary & Special Schools

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Mark Hignett

Voluntary and Community Sector
Assembly

Substitute Members:

Charlotte Barnes
Dean Carroll
Peter Cherrington
Roger Evans
Jane MacKenzie

William Parr
Arthur Walpole
Tina Woodward
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies and Substitutions

To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 3 February 2016, are attached for confirmation.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 5.00pm on 18 March 2016

5 Members' Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice.

Deadline for notification: 5.00pm on 18 March 2016

6 Young Health Champions' Diabetes prevention project

To receive a presentation on the "Young Health Champions" diabetes prevention project

7 CAMHS Update

Report to follow

8 Health Visitor Services and Family Nurse Partnership Update (Pages 7 - 22)

Report 8.1 provides an update of the Health Visitor Service since the commissioning for health visiting transferred from NHS England to Local Authority.

Report 8.2 provides an update on the development of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) over the last twelve months as well as next steps informed by the recently published randomised control trial.

9 Management and cost of placements for Children in Local Authority Care (Pages 23 - 76)

This report sets out how Children's Social Work services manage placements for Looked After Children

10 Performance Data (Pages 77 - 80)

To receive and comment on the information contained in the attached Outcome Dashboards

11 Work Programme (Pages 81 - 92)

The current Scrutiny Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan are attached.

Members are asked to consider whether there are any other items they wish to be added to the work programme.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee will be held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 10.00am at the Shirehall



YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2016

10.00 am - 12.15 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillors Peggy Mullock (Vice Chairman), Andy Boddington, Hannah Fraser, Vince Hunt, Nic Laurens, Kevin Pardy, John Price and Kevin Turley

69 Apologies and Substitutions

69.1 Apologies for absence were received from Austin Atkinson, Joyce Barrow, Mark Hignett and Robert Tindall.

69.2 In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Councillor Mullock took the meeting.

69.3 The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that Philip Tranter had resigned as the Primary School and Special School Governor representative as he had resigned as a School Governor.

70 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

70.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

71 Minutes

71.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 had been circulated.

71.2 **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72 Public Question Time

72.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

73 Members' Question Time

73.1 There were no questions from Members.

74 Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report

74.1 Members received the annual report of the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) for 2014-15.

74.2 The Independent Chair of the SSCB reminded Members that under section 14A of the Children Act 2004 she was required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Shropshire. She advised that as well as the Scrutiny Committee the report was submitted to the Leader of the Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

74.3 The Independent Chair informed the meeting that in the year in question:

- There were 66,400 children under 19 in Shropshire, 13% of which were in income deprived households
- There were 2,626 referrals to children's social care, up from 2,305 in the previous year.
- 249 children were subject of a Child Protection Plan.
- 313 looked after children
- 400+ children in care placed in Shropshire from elsewhere in the country
- 1 serious case review which was for a child placed in Shropshire from out of county.

74.4 The Independent Chair commented that there was considerable pressure from rising demands and reducing resources across the system but the development of Early Help, the development of Compass and strong leadership, placed the County in a good position to cope with this.

74.5 A Member asked for more information on the Task and Finish Group on the safeguarding of disabled children mentioned in paragraph 4.3.1 of the report. The Independent Chair commented that the Task and Finish Group had been established to raise awareness of disabled children and to look at any gaps in the service provided for disabled children, and that it was due to report its findings to the SSCB Board in 2016 and that its finding would be included in the next annual report.

74.6 A Member asked what was being done to improve the attendance of GPs at Meetings. The Independent Chair commented that the attendance of GPs was improving and that often they could not attend due to work commitments and added that the SSCB was putting pressure on the CCG and NHS England to ensure that GPs received proper training and support. The Head of Safeguarding stated that the Council were looking at ways of improving engagement with GPs.

74.7 A Member asked what was being done to ensure that "the voice of the child" was being heard. The Independent Chair stated that the Board received regular reports around hearing the voice of the child at each meeting and also received presentations from young people, but that there was more to be done.

74.8 A Member commented that there seemed to be a real problem with the support of children placed in Shropshire from other Counties and asked whether anything could be done about this at a national level. The Independent Chair stated that the matter was very much on the national agenda but the Board needed to ensure it was satisfied that arrangements for LAC placed out of County were robust.

74.9 The Vice-Chairman thanked the Independent Chair for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

74.10 **RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Shropshire Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2014-15 be noted.

75 **Social Care Support for Children with Disabilities**

75.1 The Director of Children's Services advised the meeting that the Chairman had asked that this item be added to the agenda following receipt of the Shropshire Parent and Carer Council (SPCC) report "Accessing Social Care Support for Children with Disabilities in Shropshire" which had raised several concerns.

75.2 The Vice Chairman welcomed Sarah Thomas (Secretary) and Sarah Cox from SPCC and asked them to address the meeting.

75.3 Ms Thomas advised the meeting that the SPCC provided support for parent and carers of disabled children and that they currently had 500 families on their database. She outlined SPCC concerns which included: -

- A lack of transparency in the system of social care support and confusion regarding the role of Children's Social care both amongst families and some Shropshire Council staff
- Concerns regarding the decision to recommission the contract for the provision of overnight short breaks at the Willows
- Concerns over the future of social care services following publication of the Council's FINANCIAL STRATEGY.
- Concerns over the impact of the move to local commissioning of services.

75.4 The Director of Children's Services advised the meeting that whilst she understood some of the concerns expressed, the large majority of families did get their needs met. She went on to say that she had already met with PACC and was working with PACC representatives to achieve the best outcomes for all families.

75.5 The Director of Children's Services stated that there had been over commissioning of bed nights at the Willows which had led to surplus capacity. She added that the

situation would be monitored to ensure that there was sufficient capacity available to meet needs.

75.6 A Member made reference to the recommendations of the 0-25 Years Disability Services Task and Finish Group, which had completed its work in 2010. It was agreed that the Committee Officer would circulate the final report to Committee Members.

75.7 A Member asked how families could access services. The Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding advised that services were offered as part of "Early Help" and that currently 668 children were accessing services. She added that in the year to date the Compass team had had interaction with 90 children with disabilities. She informed Members that work was currently ongoing with PACC to develop an easy guide to the services that were available.

75.8 The Vice Chairman thanked the representative from PACC for attending the meeting and participating in the debate.

76 Promotion of Physical Activity

76.1 The Chairman advised that due to a family emergency the Officer who was due to give the presentation could not attend the meeting and that the presentation would be given at a future meeting of the Committee.

77 Update on Changes to the Provision of Youth Services

77.1 Members received the report of the Director of Commissioning which updated Members on progress with the commissioning of youth activities.

77.2 The Commissioning Director reminded the meeting that the Shropshire Youth Association in Partnership with Energize had been commissioned to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary community sector and that currently there were over 100 clubs affiliated to the SYA that received a wide range of support from them. The Commissioning Director informed Members that that Local Joint Committees had made 43 separate awards for youth activities ranging from small grants of less than £200 to the awarding of large contracts of over £15,000. He added that responsibility for the commissioning of youth activity in Shrewsbury had been passed to the Town Council under a formal delegation agreement.

77.3 A Member commented that in some places the commissioning of youth services had been a "painful" process", and asked what lessons had been learnt through the commissioning process. The Commissioning Manager commented that the local commissioning model was welcomed rather than the "one size fits all" model but that more time should be allowed for the commissioning process especially where staff were transferring.

77.4 A Member asked about the future funding of youth activities. The Commissioning Manager informed the meeting that funding was secured to the end of the March 2017. He added that other sources of funding may need to be investigated for future years.

77.5 In response to a query Richard Parkes CEO Shropshire Youth Association updated Members on how the new infrastructure contract was evolving and other work that they were carrying out.

77.6 The Vice Chairman thanked Officers for their report and for answering Members questions.

78 Work Programme

78.1 Members received copies of the Committee's Work Programme and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

78.2 The Vice Chairman asked Members to let the Chairman know of any other topics they would like added to the Committee's Work Programme.

79 Date of Next Meeting

79.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at the Shirehall at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and Date
Young People's Scrutiny
Committee.

23 March 2016

Item

8.1

Public

Commissioning of Health Visiting Services

Responsible Officer

e-mail: Lindsay.machardy@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 253943

Fax: N/A

1. Summary

October 1st 2015 the commissioning for health visiting transferred from NHS England to Local Authority. The health visiting service in Shropshire is currently provided by Shropshire Community Health Trust. This report provided an update of the service since transition.

2. Recommendations

- a) That the report is noted.
- b) That regular updates on the Health Visiting service be provided to Young People's Scrutiny Committee

REPORT

On 1st October 2015 the commissioning of health visiting services transferred from NHS England to Local Authorities. Shropshire Community Health Trust provide the current service in Shropshire providing services to meet the Healthy Child Programme objectives based on a progressive model dependent upon need (see appendix 1).

The Healthy Child programme identifies the health visitor as the lead for the delivery of the programme from 0-5 years. Currently the health visiting service offer 5 mandated universal contacts. These include:

- Antenatal contact from 28 weeks
- New Birth visit 10-14 days post delivery
- 6-8 weeks
- 12 months
- 2 years

Further contacts are provided where additional support is required/identified.

The service is taking great strides to achieve these core contacts and contract monitoring has shown an increase in the uptake of these.

1. Quality Indicators Indicator	Standard	Performance in Period/ accumulative	Reasons for failure to meet standard and where applicable plans to improve
For Health Visitor contract			
Number of families support at a Community level	n/a	Data not currently collected	Q – what information is required? Feedback is provided to the Locality Boards quarterly
Activities run at community level	n/a	Data not currently collected	Q – what information is required? Feedback is provided to the Locality Boards quarterly
Number of mothers who received a first face to face antenatal contact with a Health Visitor at 28 weeks or above (new indicator)	Agreed NHSE Target Trajectory of planned delivery was 347 this qtr	503	100% offer in place across Shropshire. Target trajectory was 75% offer and 50% delivery by end of Q3. We have exceeded this and achieved 73% delivery
AN contacts as a percentage	Average 2015-2016 per qtr is 690 births	73%	Figure in red is delivered contacts against average births per quarter this year 2015-2016 100% offer is in place across Shropshire via appointments DNA rate is 27%
Percentage of births that receive a face to face New Birth Visit within 14 days by a Health Visitor	98% and over NHSE target trajectory was 90% delivery at Q3	95% Delivered contacts 684/721 births	98% achieved where mother and infant available within 14 days 2% due to late notification of birth from external providers Target Trajectory was 90% delivery within 14 days at Q3 Target exceeded
Percentage of face-to-face NBVs undertaken after 14 days, by a Health Visitor	Less than 2%	5%	As above
Percentage of children who received a HV 6-8 week assessment	-	91.5%	Target trajectory was 80% at

		Delivered contacts 660/721 births	Q3 Target exceeded
Percentage of children who received a 12 month review by the time they turned 12 months	98% and over	58% (delivered contacts of 356/609 due)	% of children who had their 12 month review within the qtr in which their 1 st birthday was. 100% offer via appointment is in place across Shropshire Trajectory was 75% delivery at Q3 Target not delivered DNA rate is 42%
Percentage of children who received a 12 month review by the time they turned 15 months	Less than 2%	3%	We aim to complete all 12 month reviews within the quarter of 1 st birthday
Percentage of children who received a 2-2.5 year review	100% Trajectory of planned delivery was 75% at Q3	72% (contacts delivered of 459/641 due)	100% delivery is not achievable 100% offer in place across Shropshire by appointment Trajectory was 75% delivery at Q3 Target achieved DNA rate is 28%
Number of families supported at a Universal plus level (THIS FIGURE IS REPORTED AT % OF CONTACTS PROVIDED TO FAMILIES AT UNIVERSAL PLUS LEVEL)	See accompanying graph	49.2%	Data is not collected on number of families supported on Universal Plus level Average of % of all HV contacts at Universal Plus level
Key themes for support	n/a	Data not currently collected	
Number of families support at an Universal partnership plus level (THIS FIGURE IS REPORTED AT % OF CONTACTS PROVIDED	See accompanying graph		Average of % of all HV contacts at Universal

TO FAMILIES AT UNIVERSAL PARTNERSHIP PLUS LEVEL)		10.3%	Partnership Plus level
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The implementation of an integrated 2 year review with Early Years settings (see appendix 2) is currently being undertaken to increase uptake of the review but also to provide greater communication and continuity between health and early years to increase early intervention and improve outcomes. The results of the pilot will be available in September 2016. It is planned then to roll out the offer across all early years settings based on pilot feedback and remodelling as required.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB this will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

4. Financial Implications

NA

5. Background

6. Additional Information

A review of commissioning across the 0-19 age range is currently underway, with a view to ensuring comprehensive and effective universal services whilst reducing potential gaps and/or duplication.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Department of Health, 2009. Healthy Child Programme. Pregnancy and the first 5 years of life.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Karen Calder, Health Portfolio Holder

Local Member

Appendices

1. Summary of HCP Offer
2. Integrated 2 year review flowchart

Community

A RANGE OF SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Universal Services

ACCESS TO THE HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME THROUGH HEALTH VISITORS, SCHOOL NURSING IN CONJUNCTION WITH GP'S AND OTHER SERVICES. THESE INCLUDE:
HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS
SCREENING AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS
IMMUNISATIONS
PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELL BEING INCLUDING EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
PROMOTION OF SENSITIVE PARENTING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS
PREPARATION AND SUPPORT WITH TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
SIGNPOSTING TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Universal Plus

RAPID RESPONSE WHEN SPECIFIC EXPERT HELP IS NEEDED
PROMOTION AND EXTRA SUPPORT FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
SUPPORT WITH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE E.G. SMOKING, DIET, KEEPING SAFE, DENTAL HEALTH, ACCIDENT PREVENTION.
PARENTING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION OF PARENT –CHILD INTERACTION
PROMOTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING LANGUAGE
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND MONITORING FOR CHILDREN WITH HEALTH OR DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT

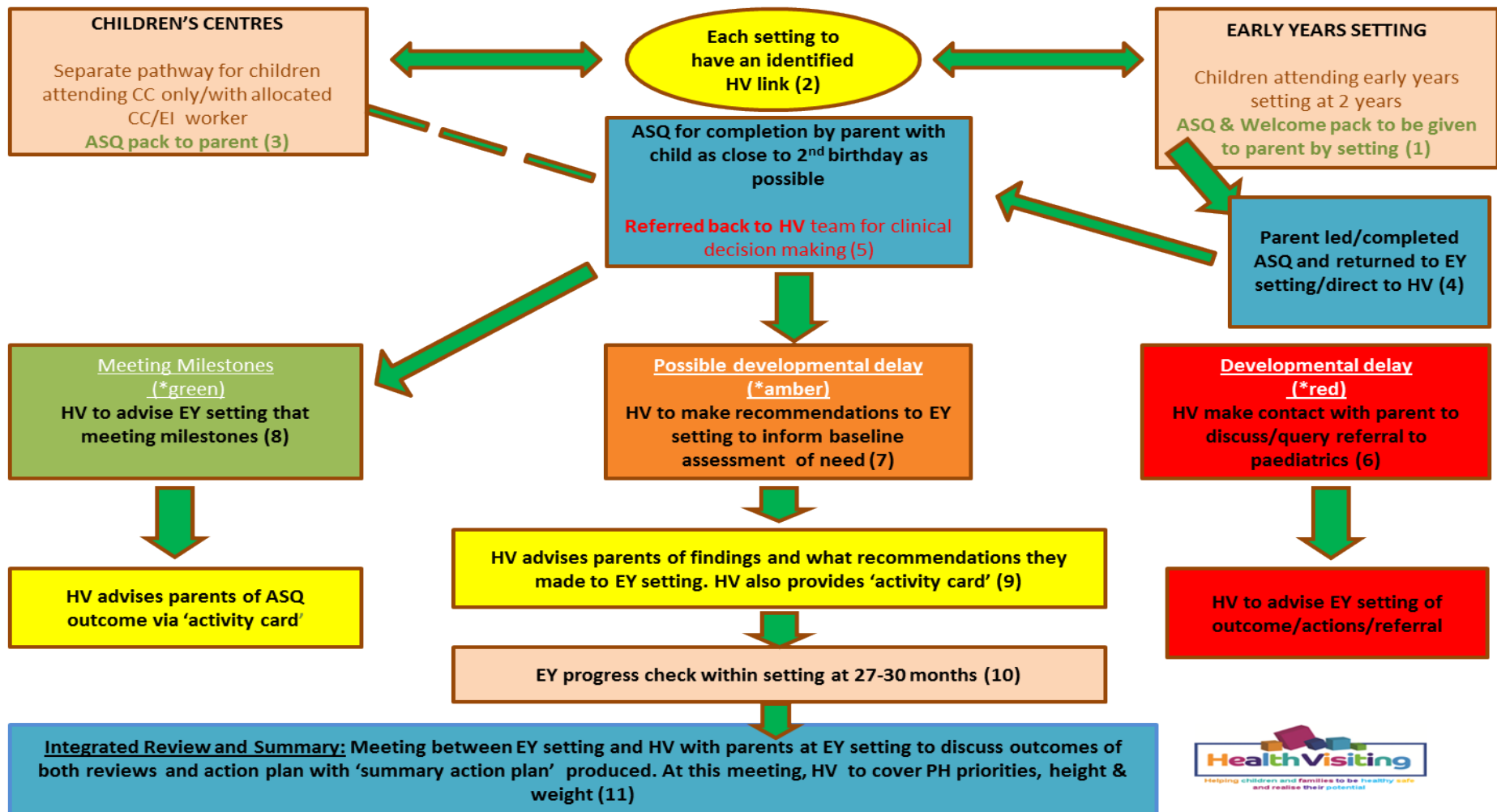
Universal Partnership Plus

PROVIDING ON-GOING SUPPORT TO DEAL WITH MORE COMPLEX ISSUES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME
INTENSIVE STRUCTURED HOME VISITING
REFERRAL FOR SPECIALIST INPUT
ACTION TO SAFEGUARD A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON
CONTRIBUTION TO CARE PACKAGE LED BY SPECIALISTS SERVICE

Integrated 2 year Pathway

Integrated pathway for children who meet the following criteria:

1. Children attending EY settings (initially as a pilot) – both via Telford ‘Talking Twos’/ ‘Shropshire 2 4 U’ places and for privately funded places
2. Children who attend CC’s – eg known to groups etc.



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Committee and Date Young People's Scrutiny Committee 23 March 2016
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Item 8.2 <u>Public</u>
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NAME OF REPORT

Family Nurse Partnership Update

Responsible Officer

e-mail: Lindsay.Machardy@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 253943 Fax:

1. Summary

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a voluntary intensive health visiting programme for first time young mums, aged 19 years or under. A specially trained family nurse visits the young mum regularly, from the early stages of pregnancy until their child is two.

The FNP programme is underpinned by an internationally recognised robust evidence base, which shows it can improve health, social and educational outcomes in the short, medium and long term, while also providing positive economic returns

FNP came under the 0-5 transfer of commissioning responsibilities from NHS England to Local Authorities on 1st October 2015. FNP in Shropshire has been operational since October 2014 and has now reached capacity. This report shows some of the development that has taken place over the last twelve months as well as next steps informed by the recently published randomised control trial.

2. Recommendations

- a) That the report is noted.
- b) Regular updates on Family Nurse Partnership to be provided to the Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

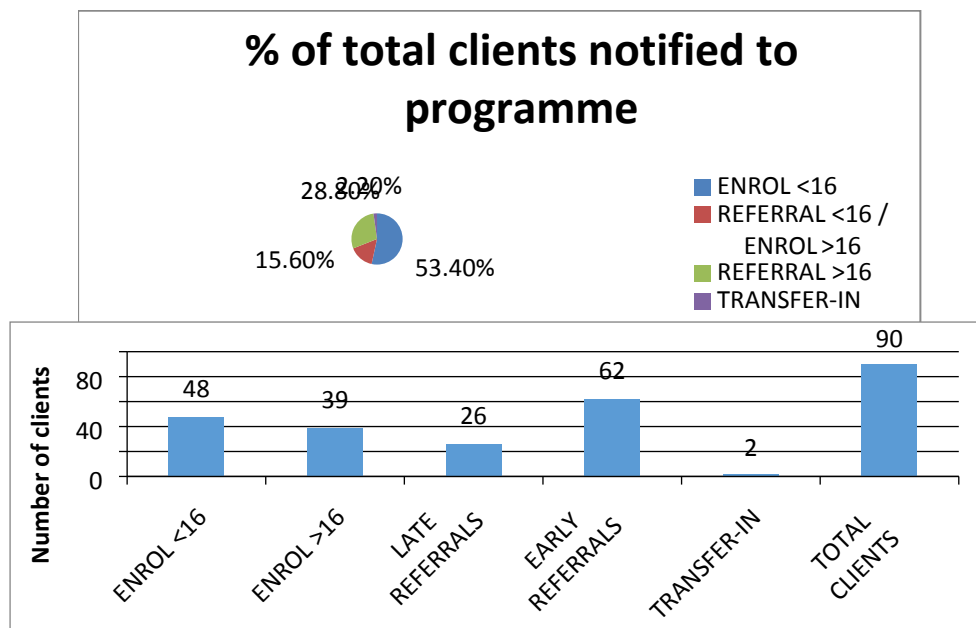
REPORT

The FNP service within Shropshire has only been running just over a year and the feedback from both friends and family survey and 'how is it going between us' with client/Nurse has indicated that families would recommend the programme to other friends or family members 100% of the time.

Feedback across the county highlighted 'trust and consistency' as two areas that were valued which is essential when addressing difficult issues. Clients felt areas that FNP have benefited them were:- Child development, relationships, better decision making, housing, benefits, career/education aspirations.

Isolation poses a big issue within Shropshire with 26% of clients reporting having some mental health problem with just under half, of these, 11%, having high or probably likelihood of anxiety reported by (HADS) Hospital, anxiety and depression score.

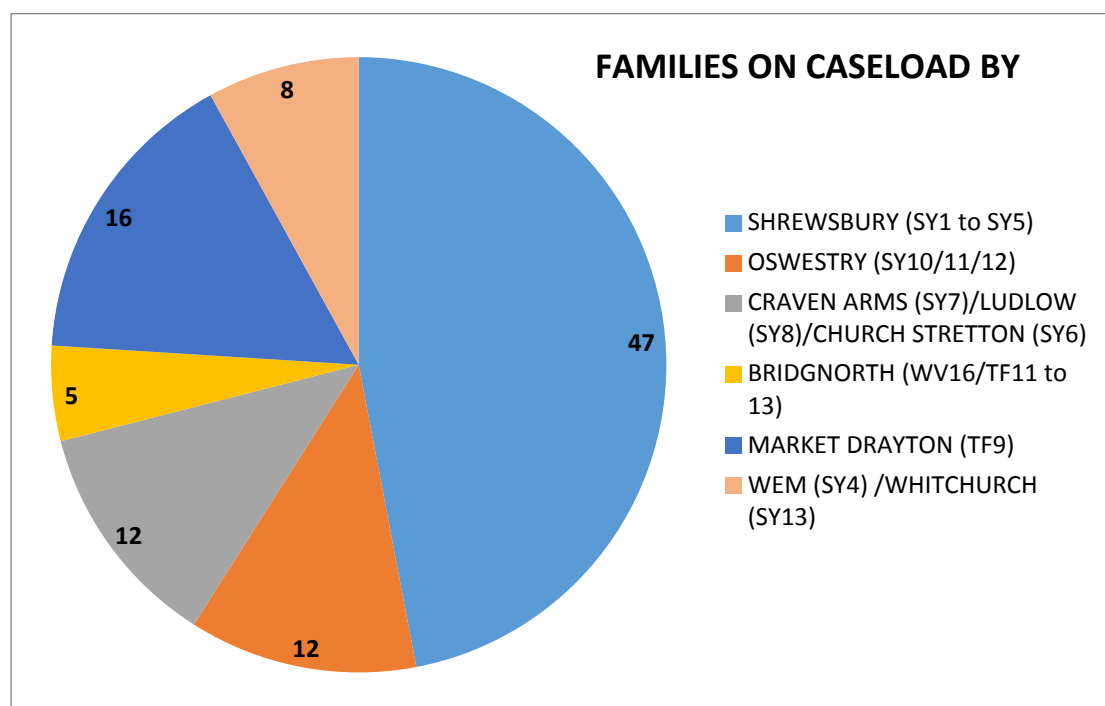
55% of clients have been enrolled by 16 weeks working to a fidelity target of 60% over the past year. The graph below shows referral status at time of notification to FNP. Continual analysis of families where enrolment over 16 weeks was made continues and is reflected within team meetings with any learning shared



FNP staff are working closely with the Health Visiting service to share any learning from FNP and will continue to develop this link over the coming year. Training around safeguarding and working with Student Health Visitors has already taken place. Close working relationships with Children's Centres in targeting pieces of work has been a strength in Shropshire, with young parent groups and baby massage groups ongoing in Shrewsbury and north of the county. FNP staff also feed into Advisory Boards in all areas.

Following results of the Controlled trial, published October 2015, we are waiting for direction from the National Unit in 2016, as FNP UK is established. Eligibility criteria from the National FNP unit will be changing slightly to target increased vulnerabilities. This will not affect FNP in Shropshire at the present time as there is no capacity to take any more clients but as clients graduate (from Feb 17) this will be a factor we will need to take into consideration. Pilot testing on some changes to the programme over the next 18 months will inform future programme fidelity, but no changes will be made without national regulation on whether changes are going to have effective impact on outcomes for FNP UK.

Achievements



It has been a busy year establishing the team with many achievements:-

- The Caseload has developed and is now near to full capacity (100 Clients, 67 Babies) – Discussions with Health Visiting services regarding impact on their services has already begun.
- Presentation at Celebrating Success event was received extremely well and marked the 1 year milestone
- There have been coffee mornings across Shropshire advertised through a quarterly newsletter to stakeholders which have generally been well attended by different agencies including: social care, CAFs and Shropshire Council. These will be continued during the coming year
- Telford and Shropshire have used joint training opportunities to share learning as appropriate
- Client leaflet has been produced and made available widely
- Promotion at the Annual Shropshire Community Trust event

- Parent Advisory groups are in their infancy with Client leaflet produced in the first instance. A step up to linking in with existing young people's groups across the county will be embedded over the next 4 months
- Named Nurses have been identified for: Safeguarding, breastfeeding, sexual health, PIPE and Mental Health; and continue to establish links with appropriate stakeholders
- A representative from FNP sits on Vulnerable Women's Group.
- Amber Bennett has just completed a sexual health and contraception course at Stafford University and over the next few months she will develop and share her learning with the team and wider health visiting teams.
- Jo Bettison sits on the vulnerable women's group and is due to undertake the Domestic Violence facilitator course in order to co-facilitate 2 cohorts of the Freedom programme in the north of the county in the coming year. With nearly a quarter of the caseload reporting that they have ever been abused by someone close to them it seems appropriate to use our skills in engagement and communication to support our most vulnerable clients to access support with Domestic abuse in partnership with the Local Authority.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB this will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

Equitable service is offered to all areas of Shropshire, with named nurses for each area to enable SMART working across Shropshire. Named nurses works effectively in managing a large geographic area and effective working relationships with stakeholders in rural areas.

An effective pathway needs to be in place when FNP reaches capacity to ensure appropriate support is provided for this client group using existing services. A multi-agency task and finish group has worked to develop a care pathway to ensure that this takes place (see appendix A).

An effective pathway needs to be in place for when clients graduate from FNP on the child's second birthday to ensure a seamless transfer to the health visiting service. A pathway is currently in development for this

4. Financial Implications

Not applicable

5. Background

6. Additional Information

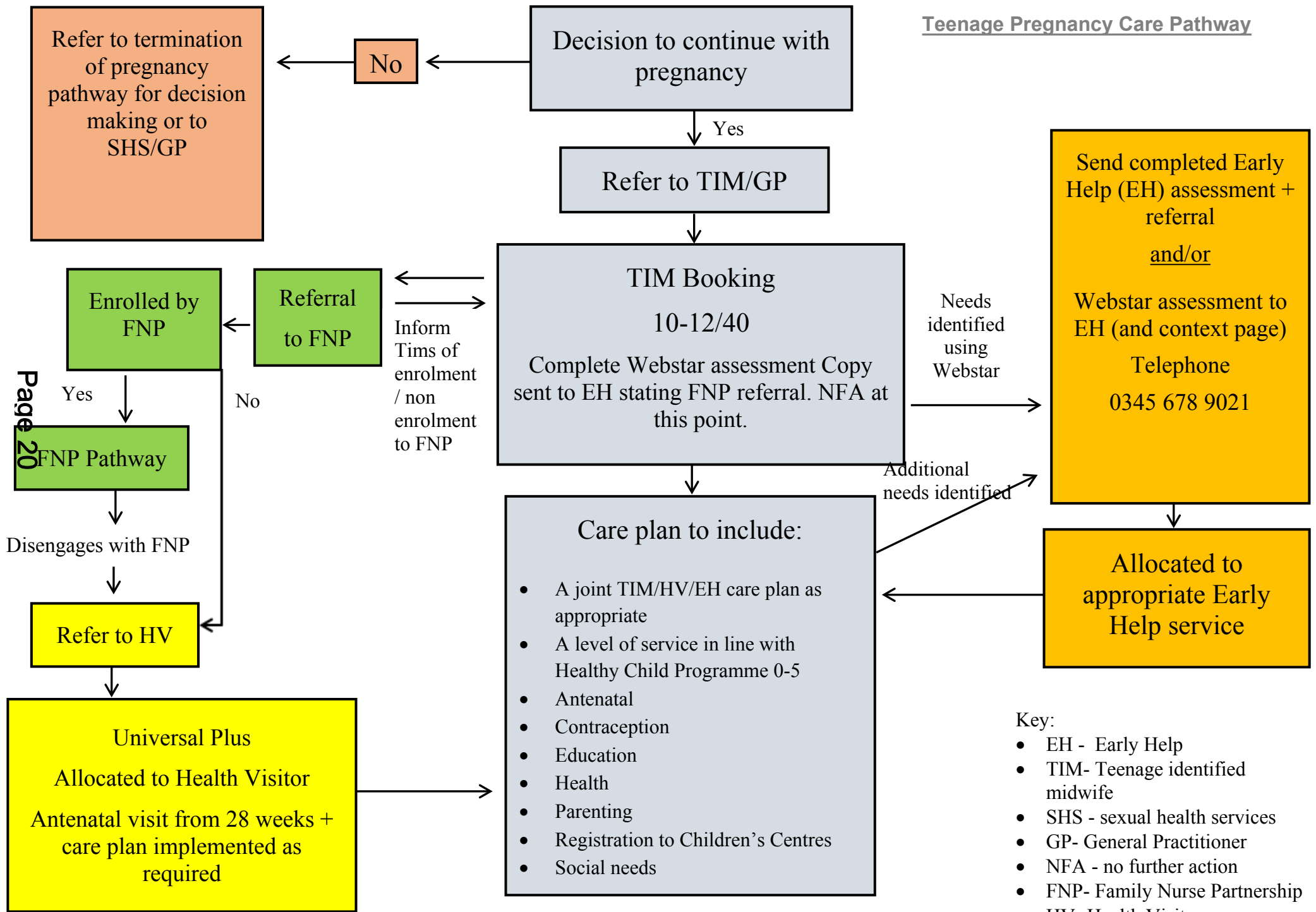
List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Karen Calder, Health Portfolio Holder

Local Member

Appendices
1. Teenage Pregnancy Care Pathway

Teenage Pregnancy Care Pathway



Page 20

Safeguarding
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- Key:
- EH - Early Help
 - TIM- Teenage identified midwife
 - SHS - sexual health services
 - GP- General Practitioner
 - NFA - no further action
 - FNP- Family Nurse Partnership
 - HV- Health Visitor

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Young Peoples Scrutiny
Committee

23 March 2016

Item

Public

Management and cost of placements for Children in Local Authority Care

Responsible Officer Tina Russell – Head of Service

e-mail: Tina.russell@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 254254 Fax

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out how Children's Social work services manage placements for Looked After children.

1.2 It aims to explain:

- How the range of placements are identified, including internal assessment and approval and processes for commissioning of external placements.
- How costs are determined for foster care and residential care.
- The use of residential care for our LAC

1.3 The report should be read in conjunction with the Sufficiency Duties annual report 2015 which can be found as appendix 1.

2. Decision

2.1 Scrutiny is invited to note the contents of the report and to seek further information as required to be confident that the management of placements for Looked After Children in Shropshire is effective in meeting the needs of children, is meeting the legal sufficiency duties of the LA and are managed at best value to the public purse.

REPORT

3. Accommodating children and sufficiency duties of the local authority

- 3.1 The Children Act 1989 section 22G sets out the 'Sufficiency' - Statutory Guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children. The guidance seeks to ensure accommodation improves outcomes for looked after children and young people and requires Local Authorities to take steps to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the Local Authority are looking after.
- 3.2 It is well understood that the quality of placements strongly relates to children and young people 'doing well' in care – the higher the quality, the better children and young people do' (Sinclair et al, 2007). In Shropshire we work to ensure we have the full range of accommodation available, locally where possible, to meet the needs of any child who needs to be received into LA care to protect them from harm or promote their welfare where birth parents are unable to provide this.
- 3.3 All placements have cost inclusive of staffing, day time and night staff teams, accommodation/buildings, domestic, insurances etc. In addition placement will have additional provision such as additional 2-1 staffing, night waking staff, therapeutic service and on site education. Each individual placement set out in their Statement of Purpose and provision statement what they offer and what is included in the cost of the placement. Placement are split into tiers to reflect the level of services and size of the occupancy. Examples across the range of these are attached for information as appendices. In line with the LA duties and responsibilities the placement of each child must be matched to needs identified in the social work assessment.
- 3.4 In April 14 we introduced a Process for Accommodating Children into Local authority Care (PALAC) the PALAC reports enables us to evidence in a single place the assessment of need for LA accommodation, the decision for accommodation and the process by which the placement is identified to meet the needs of the child. This process has been successful in ensuring our practice is consistent, scrutinised and transparent. The PLALAC form can be found as an appendix to this report.

4. Foster Care Placement Provision

- 4.1 The Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 confirm that where a decision has been made to receive a child into Local Authority care the LA have a duty to try and identify a family member, friend or connected person (FFC) to the child to act as carer on behalf of the LA in order to keep the child connected to its family community and to cause minimal disruption to the child's life.
- 4.2 Where no FFC carer can be identified a decision needs to be made as to which is the most appropriate placement able to meet the needs of the child identified through the Social Work Assessment. Where ever possible the first option would be to identify a family based foster carer though an internal in house provision or an

externally commissioned carer if we have no in house provision able to meet the needs of the child.

- 4.3 Payment for foster carer payment structure is set out in our Payment Arrangement for Foster Carers as an Appendix to this report.
- 4.4 At the time of writing FFC carers are paid the “Child Care” allowance of the foster care payment. However the policy is under review to ensure we are compliant with legislation and that appropriate payments to FFC carer’s are based on the needs of the child and to ensure there is no discrimination between foster carers and friends and family, connected person foster carers, as is required by legislation.
- 4.5 Internal foster care provision is the responsibility of the LA fostering team. This staff team are responsible for the recruitment, assessment, supervision and annual review of our foster carer and FFC carers. The average internal FC care weekly cost for a child aged 11yrs – 15 yrs. is £320 a week. Our current lowest cost placement for a child of the same age in an external foster care placement is £795 a week and our most expensive being £1,352 per week.
- 4.6 As at 31.12.15 we have 84 children in internal foster care placements and 73 placed in FFC carers. We have 38 children placed in externally commissioned foster care placements.
- 4.7 In 15/16 Shropshire joined the Worcester Framework for externally commissioned foster care placements. The Framework gives us competitive rates and best value where we have to spot purchase individual placements for children. The existing framework expires in March 16 and we are currently working to join a new Birmingham led framework. See finance section for finical impact.

5. Fostering Placements Performance

5.1 Our strategy through 2014 - 16 has been to increase the use of FFC and internal carers and in line with our sufficiency duty place children where possible in local and family care provision. The table below shows the positive trends in our performance against these key activities.

	2013/14	2014/15	As at End Feb 2016
Foster Caring Households	118	133	141
Foster Caring Households (Exc. Family & Friends/Short Breaks)	72	78	82
Foster Caring Households - Family and Friends/Connected persons	40	50	54

Foster Caring Households - Exclusively Approved for Short Breaks	6	5	5
Approved Foster Carers (all)	216	242	252

% LAC Placed:	YE 2013	YE 2014	YE 2015
In Shropshire	70%	65%	74%
Outside Shropshire	30%	35%	26%

5.2 Focused recruitment of foster carer during 15/16 has looked to target carers for teenager and siblings groups as an identified gap in our internal provision. This has been a successful targeted campaign and we currently have nine foster care households in the assessment process who have been recruited specially to provide care for sibling groups and teenagers.

6. Residential Care Placement Provision

6.1 We currently have one in house residential provision, Chelmaren that accommodates 5 children in placements. This is an increase from 4 made in 2015 following a redesign of our in house residential care. Chelmaren have achieved “outstanding” rating in their recent Ofsted inspection for the quality of care and outcomes achieved by their children in placement.

6.2 In addition we continue to run Havenbrook as an in house children home offering short break to prevent children needing to be received into LA where with support and short breaks it is safe for the child to remain in family care. Havenbrook offers short breaks to children aged 8-16yrs and we know that of this age group if the need for LA care did arise the placement option can often be residential care or specialist foster care which we usually need to commission.

7. Residential Care Placement Performance

7.1 Our strategy through 2014 - 16 has been to reduce the number of children accommodated by providing a range of good quality edge of care support. The table below shows a significant reduction in year of newly accommodated children but a higher number requiring residential care to meet their needs.

Start date	End date	New LAC	New LAC (Unique)	First Placement Residential (of the unique)
01/04/2015		79	79	17
01/04/2014	31/03/2015	138	131	14
01/04/2013	31/03/2014	128	118	24

7.3 Using Havenbrook as a short breaks alternative to care, where it is was safe and in the children interests to keep them at home has impacted on the needs of our LAC cohort. In short children who are coming in have greater needs that can often only be met through residential care and specialist residential care placements. This includes siblings groups and Teenagers.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Joining the Worcester framework has saved us approximately £26,000 in year from existing placements transferring into the framework. We estimate a saving of approximately £65,000 per year from 16/17 in existing placements transferring into the new Birmingham framework.

8.2 The cost of our two in house children's homes is £1'255'300 per annum.

8.3 The redesign of our in house residential services reduced our weekly cost of placement from £2,989 to £2,300. As a comparison our lowest cost spot purchased residential provision is £2'650 and our highest cost is £5,733 with the average being between £3,000 and £4,000 a week. (Excluding specialist placements for children with disabilities)

8.4 Since its start date June 14 there have been 111 children and young people who have accessed short break at Havenbrook. 75 children have received a planned short break and 36 have been provided with a crisis short breaks to prevent family breakdown in an emergency situation.

8.5 LAC analysis in 2014 estimated the average stay of a child in care to be four months. Using this figure if we had not have the HB as a facility to prevent family breakdown and as such 50% (55 children) required LAC then the estimated cost to the LA would have been £279'470.000 if the children have been found placement in our internal foster care provision and £2'099'680 if they had been placed in a basic residential care placement.

8.6 During 2015/16 we have undertaken a procurement process to review our block contract provision for residential care. We sought increase our options for both more specialist services and local placements. Although we had 2 potential providers we were unable to secure a block contract with one of these that was at bets value to the LA and as such as a result of the process we have secured on provider and have agreed a block contract for 13 beds at a cost of £2,386 per week.

9. National Finance comparators

National data released (section 251 return) identifies Shropshire's cost per head of child placed in residential care. This figure is calculated using our total cost of residential care budget divided by the number of children who have been in a residential care placements in year

	2011-12 (OT)	2012-13 (OT)	2013-14 (OT)	2014-15 (OT)	2015-16(S251)	Change from previous year
Shropshire	£2,855	£2,620	£2,365	£3,350	£2,555	-£795
West Midlands	£2,965	£2,985	£3,000	£3,075	£2,835	-£240
Statistical Neighbours	£3,199	£2,722	£3,172	£2,985	£2,647	-£338
England	£3,015	£2,840	£2,910	£2,915	£2,595	-£320

10. Conclusions

In line with our duties and responsibilities under the Children Act 1898; to Promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm and our duties to Looked after children as corporate parents our LAC strategy has been to ensure we take appropriate and timely action to accommodate children where it is necessary to protection them from harm and to have a mix of placements available so we can match children needs to placement in order to promote their outcomes as Looked After Children.

We have reduced the number of LAC from 310 in April 15 to 300 in Dec 15 and significantly reduced the number of newly accommodated children in year from 131 in 14/15 to 79 year to date.

Our work in managing placements for children looked after should be seen in the context of our focused work to achieve permanency for children outside of LA care. Permanency options include Adoption, Special Guardianship Order, Residence Orders and Care Arrangement Orders. In 14/15; 5 children left care achieving permanency through a Special Guardianship order. In 15/16 year to date we have increased this to 16. During 14/15 there were 15 children who achieved permanency through Adoption, for 15/16 year to date this number has increased to 19.

We continue to ensure we are achieving good quality and best value in our placement provision through:

- Targeted recruitment of local foster carers
- Review and evaluation of commissioning opportunities for fostering and residential provision
- Review and evaluation of internal provision

- Analysis of our LAC cohort informing our placements needs and outcomes for children

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

David Minnery

Local Member

Conflicts of interest declared by members

Appendices

1. Sufficiency Duty report 2015
2. Payment Arrangements for Foster Carers April 15
3. PALAC

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SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL: SUFFICIENCY DUTY

**January
2016 –
2019**

**Placement Commissioning Strategy
for Looked After Children, Young
People and those on the 'Edge of
Care' and Custody**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 'Sufficiency - Statutory Guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children,' seeks to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people by providing guidance on the implementation of section 22G of the Children Act 1989. This section requires Local Authorities to take steps to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the Local Authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the Local Authority's area.
- 1.2 This statutory guidance requires strategic action through partnership between the Local Authority and its Children's Trust partners. The Children Act 2004 under Section 10 places a duty on the Local Authority to improve the wellbeing of children through the arrangements that promote cooperation with its relevant partners.
- 1.3 Whilst the sufficiency duty applies in respect of all looked after children, it recognises the importance of earlier, preventive action to support children and families so that fewer children become looked after – those who are on the 'edge of care.'
- 1.4 The Guidance sets out core requirements for Local Authorities, which involves:
 - ✓ Supporting and maintaining a diversity of provision to better meet the needs of looked after children and young people;
 - ✓ Placing children within their Local Authority area where reasonably practicable;
 - ✓ Supporting the market to deliver more appropriate placements.
- 1.5 It also calls for a whole system approach to designing universal, targeted and specialist services to improve outcomes for looked after children and children in need at risk of care or custody. The Local Authority must also be seen to be developing new provision in response to emerging trends and to be able to accommodate emergency placements.

2. Context

- 2.1 This document sets out the strategic intentions of Shropshire Council Children's Services in fulfilling our Sufficiency Duty as outlined in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 towards Children in Care along with the statutory guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children 2010.
- 2.2 The Shropshire Council Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy 2016-2019 includes an analysis of our current LAC population and ways to ensure the range, quality and suitability of placements available.
- 2.3 It is well understood that the quality of placements strongly relates to children and young people 'doing well' in care – the higher the quality, the better children and young people do' (Sinclair et al, 2007)
- 2.4 The determinants of quality placements are:
 - Thorough assessment and timely review
 - Foster care: providing nurturing, social and psychological, or 'authoritative' parenting

- Residential care: well-staffed and managed; low turnover; consistent regime; restorative approach; a positive culture that supports education and well-being
 - Kinship or Connected Person care: practical, emotional support and if required financial support
- 2.5 Principally, this strategy addresses our approach to children who are in need of, or who currently access, the following services:
- *Foster care placements*
 - *Residential Care*
 - *Specialist Short Breaks provision*
 - *Leaving Care placements*
 - *In custody or remanded to local authority care*
- 2.6 In addition, there are a number of approaches that underpin our ability to provide the right placements at the right time and keep families together where possible:
- *Edge of Care and Early Help*
 - *Good exit planning*
 - *Commissioned services for children in care*
 - *Our approach to identifying and tackling child sexual exploitation*
- 2.7 Our aim is to give Children and Young People the best placements in order for them to thrive in a loving, stable and secure environment and, where possible, for those children to remain within their own families.
- 2.8 This strategy reinforces our Corporate Parenting approach to ensure that children and young people are safe and their experiences in care are positive.
- 2.9 This strategy is underpinned and supplemented by a suite of statutory duties, strategies, and policies, including:
- ✓ *The national Sufficiency Duty*
 - ✓ *Early Help Strategy*
 - ✓ *Corporate Parenting Strategy*
 - ✓ *Children and Young People's Plan*
 - ✓ *West Mercia Youth Offending Service and Shropshire Children Services Remand Protocol*
 - ✓ *Shropshire Children Services Permanency Policy*
- 2.10 In considering the above, this strategy is also reinforced by the following key principles:
- The responsibility for meeting the needs of children in care lies across all areas of Children Services, and our partner agencies who are key stakeholders and corporate parents for children in care.
 - Most children are likely to thrive and achieve good outcomes if they are cared for within their own families. Early help will be provided to ensure that families are given the best possible chance of remaining together.
 - Where children cannot remain within their immediate family, the first consideration should be placement within the extended family network as a connected person.
 - Where children cannot remain within the extended family, they should be placed in a substitute family, the preference being with in-house foster carers.
 - Unless there is a good reason why not, siblings should be placed together.
 - A small number of children and young people may have needs such that a residential placement is the preferred choice of placement. This may be either because of complexity of needs or because previous experience has resulted in the young person finding the intensity of living within a family too difficult for the time being.

- When a child is placed within a residential setting, consideration should be given at all stages in care planning as to whether the child can return to live with his or her birth family or could be placed in foster care.
- Children should, unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, be placed within their communities, so that they remain close to their birth family, friends, school and other networks.
- Whenever a placement is made, the planning must include the child's education, health and emotional well-being. All efforts must be made to minimise the disruption to the child's education, whatever the child's age, but particularly at Key Stage 4. In addition to this and in accordance with the statutory guidance for Local Authorities on Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children, if the placement could involve a change of education provision then the Virtual School Head Teacher must be consulted prior to the placement being made.

3. Needs Analysis

- 3.1 Shropshire is one of England's most rural and sparsely populated counties with a large geographic area of 1,235 square miles. Situated in the West Midlands, bordering Wales to the west and Cheshire to the north, the area has a population of 310,100 (ONS, mid-year estimates 2014). Shropshire's population is largely of White British ethnic origin. The numbers of residents from minority ethnic groups is low; at 4.6% of the population (this includes white other, gypsy/traveller and Irish). 40.1% of Shropshire's population live in the main market towns of Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Ludlow and Bridgnorth. (Census 2011)
- 3.2 Shropshire has approximately 66,400 children and young people under the age of 19 years. This is 21.4% of the total population (ONS, mid-year Estimates 2014). The proportion entitled to free school meals is 10% which is below the national average but in line with similar local authority areas. Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for approximately 6.1% of the 0-19 population, compared with the English average of 24.2%. (Census 2011). In January 2015, the number of children whose first language is not English was 1040. This equates to 2.9% of the school population (figures exclude nursery aged children).
- 3.3 In July 2014 The Head of Children Social Care commissioned a three year trend analysis report to support the service in understanding the trends and needs of the looked after children population in Shropshire. The report reviewed the LAC population for the past three years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 and provided insight into the ages and circumstances in which children and young people entered care, time spent in care. The report also considered placements and permanency outcomes for those who have exited the care system. The analysis informed service development end to end, identified where early help and prevention into care required development and where permanency care planning and support needs for children exiting care.
- 3.4 The outcomes sought by the LAC strategy are not simply to reduce the number of children received into local authority care but to:
1. Reduce the number of children received into local authority care via Section 20 i.e. family breakdown / voluntary request, where timely and effective early help could have prevented the need for LA care.

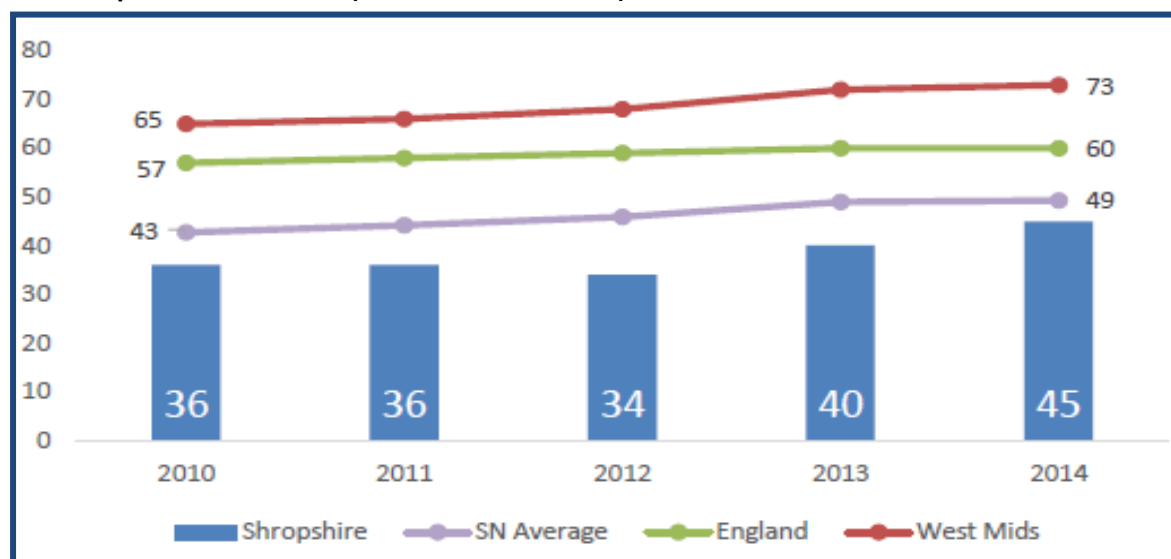
2. Increase the number of children who achieve permanency outside of local authority care in order to ensure these children can move forward leading 'normal' family lives without long term intervention of the local authority.
3. To increase the number of children who are placed locally in Shropshire maximising potential to achieve stability in their school and health provision and connections with community and family where this is appropriate.
4. Reduce the duration of time children spend in local authority care, achieving permanency as soon as possible.
5. Reduce the number of children re-entering the care system by supporting sustained rehabilitation to parental care where it is safe to do so.

3.5 Reducing the percentage of children entering the care system under S20 and supporting older children to remain in family care where it is safe to do so have been key areas of work in our LAC strategy 13/15 and 14/15. Our progress against these key activities can be viewed in the table below:

Children looked after by the Council	313
Children placed with foster carers (71 of whom are with relatives and friends who are assessed as foster carers)	216
Children placed for adoption	15
Children placed at home with parents	15
Children placed in residential care	43
Children are in the care of the Council through a legal order	173
Young people are care leavers aged between 18-24 still in receipt of statutory services	119

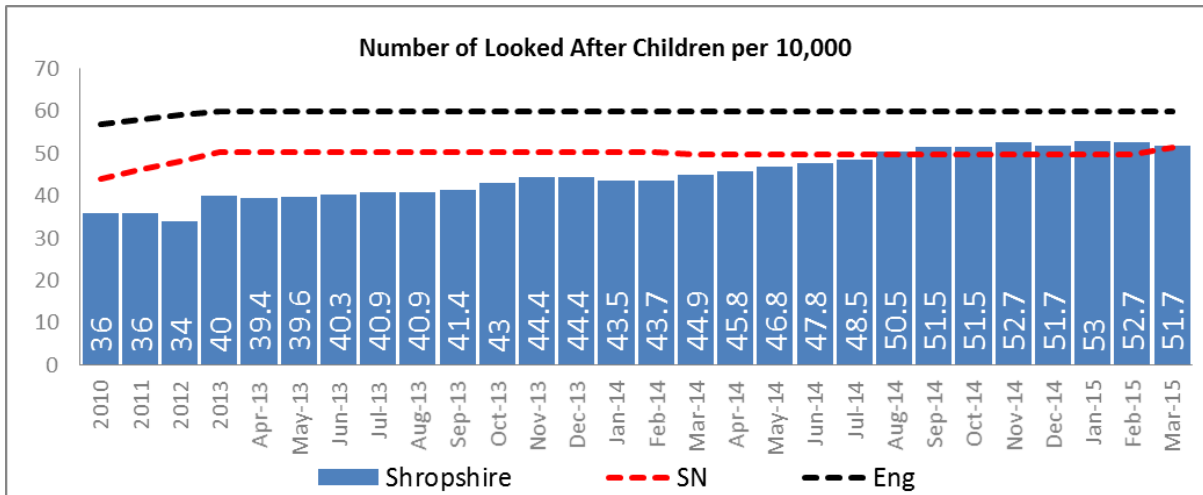
3.6 DfE figures released in October 2014 demonstrate a five year trend for Shropshire alongside All England, Shropshire's statistical neighbours and the West Midlands region. Although, Shropshire has seen a rise in its overall LAC population this is in line with rises seen in other LA's nationally and regionally. In Shropshire our overall LAC population per 10K of children continues to be lower than that of All England and our Statistical neighbours.

LAC rate per 10k 2010-2014 (as at 31st March 2014)



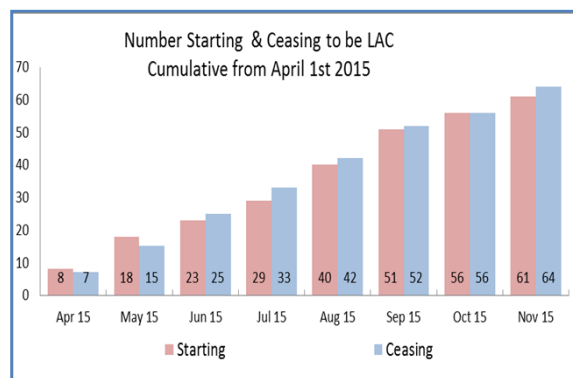
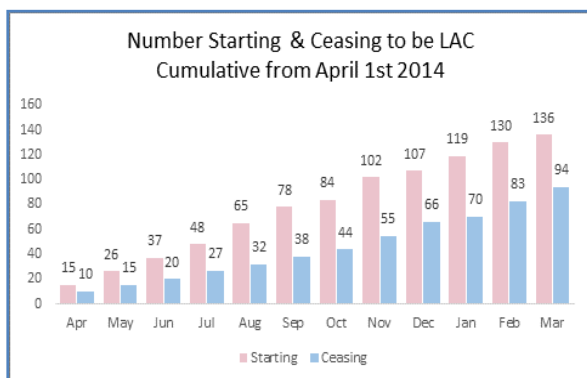
Rate 2014 / 2015

3.7 At the end of March 2013 there were 241 children looked after by Shropshire Council and by comparison at the end of March 2014, there were 271 and at the end of March 2015 there were 313 which is a 15.5% increase in numbers or a rate of 52.2 /10000 which is an increase of 7/10000 on the previous year. This is above our statistical neighbours but below all England (2014/15)



3.8 In 2014\15 the rate of children entering the care system was greater than those exiting. Our edge of care services have been strengthened including the development of a Short Break provision (Havenbrook) and outreach for young people on the edge of care and a mechanism to quickly identify and review support required by young people and their families - Support Plus Panel. This is discussed further in section 6.

3.9 We have over 2015 seen this trend changing to be more equal or reversing.



4. Decision Making.

- 4.1 In April 2014 we introduced the Pathway to Local Authority Care. (PALAC). This was revised in August 15. This form and process aim to ensure that for every child received into LA care there is in one place a clearly recorded decision as to the need for LA accommodation evidencing consideration of the placement type / area / impact on education and views of the child.



PALAC Revised Aug
15.doc

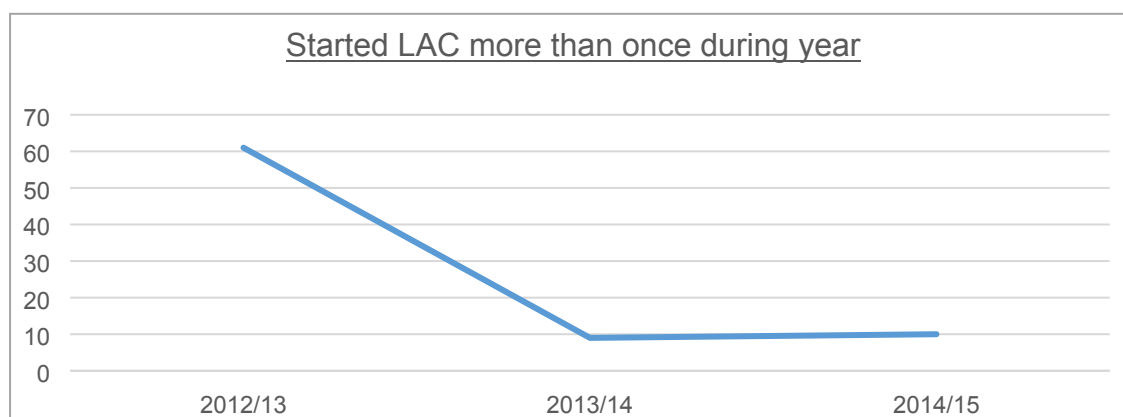
5. Statistical and National performance

- 5.1 The following set of charts outlines the DfE LAC analysis across Local Authorities and was released December 2015. This shows us how the LAC population of Shropshire compares with our statistical neighbours and All England data.



LAC 2nd Stage
Analysis (produced dec

- 5.2 With effective edge of care support in place and focused work under child protection and pre proceedings we have been able to reduce our S20 percentage from 41% as at 31st March 2015 to 37% by September 2014 and we have been able to maintain this year to date. Also the number of children entering care over the age of 10yrs is comparatively lower than our SN and England and whilst in Shropshire from 14/15/- 15/16 we have an increasing number of children placed in Foster care provision this is still lower than SN/England. We have achieved a significant reduction in the number of children placed in residential care settings.
- 5.3 Repeat LAC is also an indicator of where support to rehabilitate children and young people to parental care has been ineffective. The chart below show a significant improvement in the past two year of children who have repeat care episodes. This indicates impact of edge of care work, appropriate care planning outside of parental care and sustained rehabilitation.



6. Children in care and Education

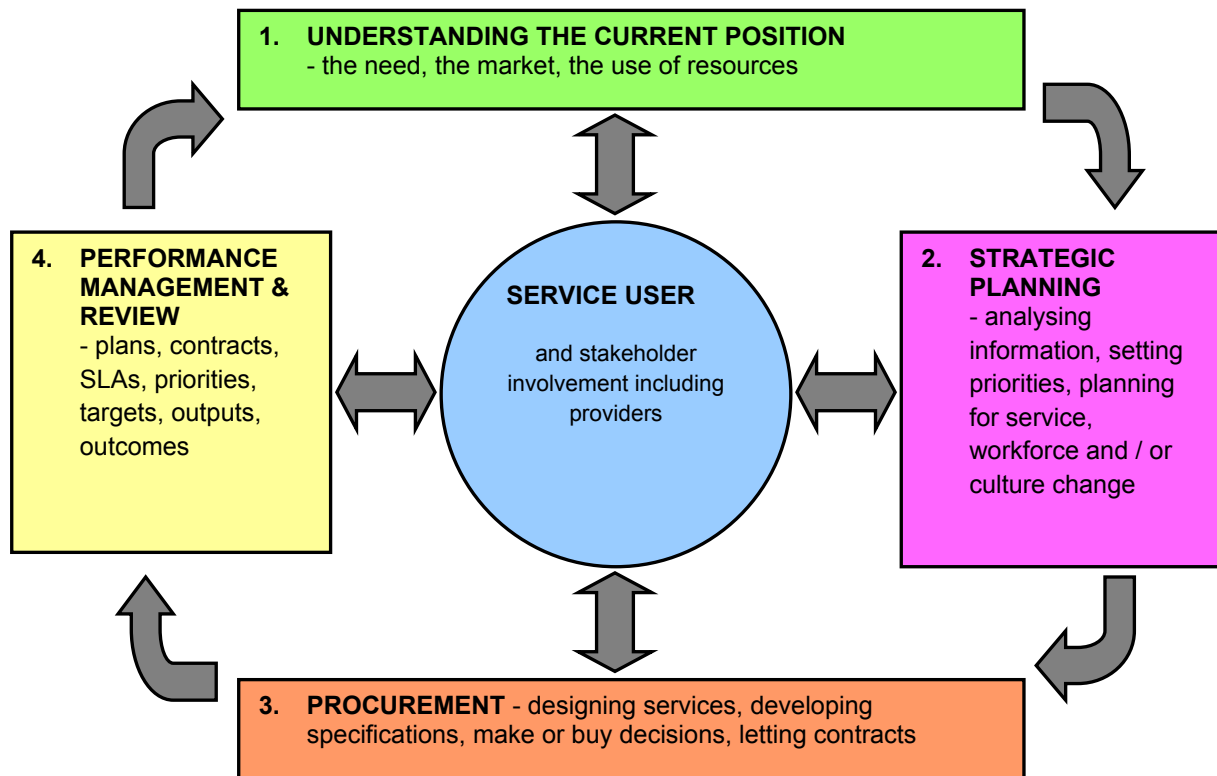
- 6.1 Under Section 22 (3)(a) of the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to promote educational achievement as an integral part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children they look after. This means that every authority must give particular attention to the educational implications of any decision about the welfare of those children, including placement planning and decision making.
- 6.2 This duty applies to all children looked after by Shropshire Council, wherever they are placed. It includes making sure that young children access good quality early years education places, those who are of statutory school age and extends to supporting relevant and former relevant children to do as well as they possibly can in education.
- 6.3 Where a young person is in school years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) there is an expectation that a young person's education should not be disrupted other than in an emergency placement. Particular efforts should be made to avoid disruption to their education as a result of a placement move, given the importance of stability whilst studying for GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, and that the disruption may have a negative impact on their chances to enter further education or to get a job in the future.
- 6.4 In order to achieve this we will:
- Have the highest aspirations for all our children and young people in care to provide them with the stability and access to resources that will support them to achieve at least in line with their peers.
 - Ensure that the PEP is a personalised learning and support plan that records everything the child or young person needs to achieve their full educational potential.
 - Keep a clear focus on educational needs as part of our care planning and decision making.
 - In the first instance try to ensure that the child or young person can continue in the same school even if s/he can no longer live in the immediate neighbourhood if it is in their best interests; in order to fulfil this obligation transport may need to be provided (Care planning Regulations and Guidance 3.16).
 - Ensure that prior to changing placement and disrupting the child's education provision, all other options have been explored and exhausted and that the reasons recorded within the PEP.
 - Consult with the Virtual School Head teacher and the designated teacher of the school that the young person is registered with, prior to a placement decision being made. If placement involves a change of school then the designated teacher of the proposed new school will also be consulted and the PEP amended accordingly.
 - Ensure that where it is impossible for the child to remain in his/her existing educational placement the care placement will not, except in an emergency, be made unless the education provision is made at the same time.

- Ensure that the PEP identifies all the additional support a child or young person may require to either stay in the same school if they move care placement or successfully integrate into their new school/education provision.

7. Shropshire's Approach to Sufficiency and Commissioning

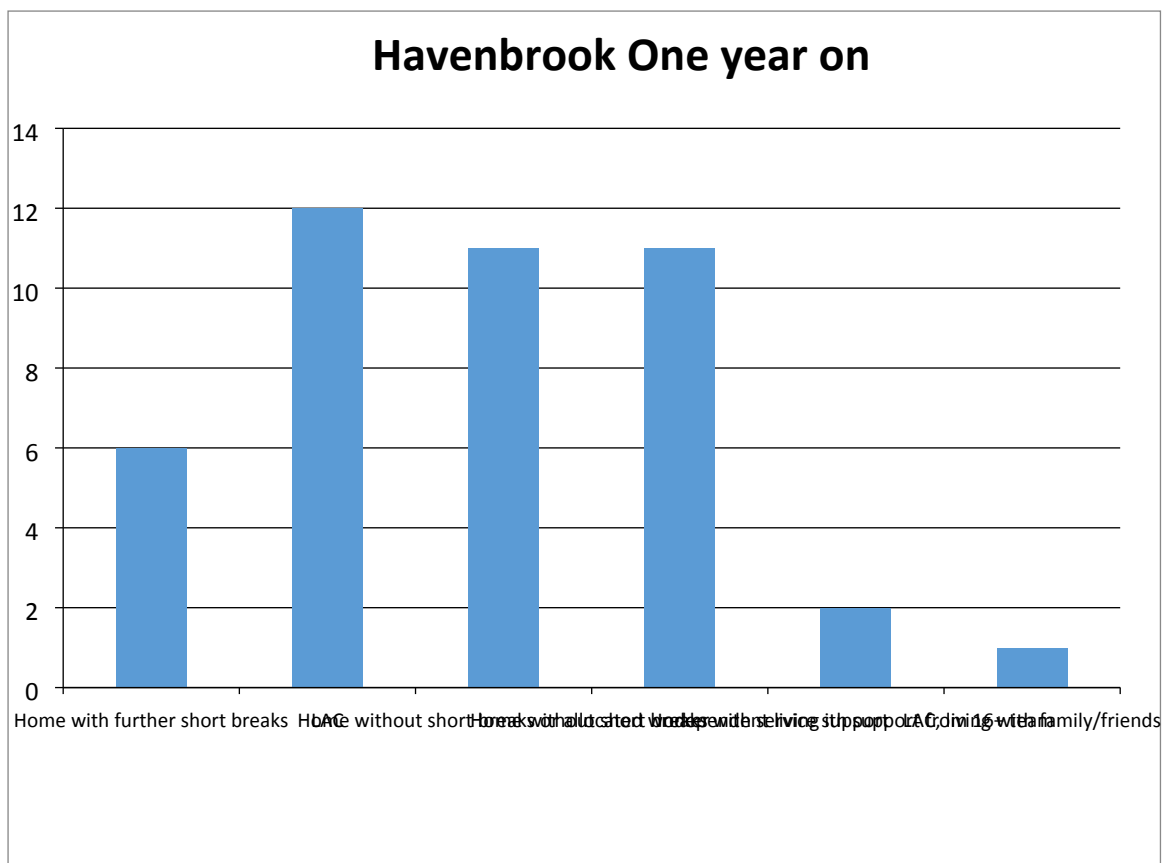
- 7.1 Sufficiency Duty is critical in ensuring improved outcomes for looked after children. Our aim is to ensure that all children and young people receive the right support at the right time and in the right way. This extends to our Sufficiency Duty, ensuring that any child or young person looked after is in the most appropriate accommodation and as such that we provide the right accommodation to meet a wide range of needs. As far as is practically possible we will ensure that there is sufficient accommodation and that it is within the local authority area. To do this effectively and to help young people achieve positive outcomes we will work with our partners in fulfilling this duty. This underpins the arrangements for effective corporate parenting, a shared responsibility across all services for children.
- 7.2 Our LAC strategy for working with the needs of children in local authority care recognises the wide range and complexity of needs presented by individual children and importantly their parents. It acknowledges the research that tells us that children achieve better outcomes when cared for in their family and local communities where it is safe to do so but where children are removed the importance of timely permanency planning is a priority.
- 7.3 **Commissioning Placements**
The Statutory Guidance suggests that good practice in meeting the sufficiency duty can be met through a step change in commissioning practice in which Local Authorities are active in managing their market and work with their Children's Trust partners to achieve this goal.
- 7.4 Applied locally this requires a whole system approach to early intervention and prevention alongside services for looked after children and those young people leaving care. This is broader than having sufficient beds in certain locations.
- 7.5 It should enable siblings to remain together, provide for children and young people with disabilities and encompass a range of placement options for older young people. Placement provision needs to be supported by a range of social work and other specialist services targeted at meeting the specific health, educational and personal development needs of looked after children and young people.
- 7.6 In Shropshire we have 1 Local Authority residential children's home that can accommodate 5 children and 1 Local Authority residential home that offers planned short breaks to 4 children and young people on the edge of care and 1 crisis admission.
- 7.7 We also have a well-established block contract with a residential care provider (Keys). This was instigated in 2008 \ 09 to meet the needs of some of our most complex looked after children and to achieve best value. In April 2015 we began a retendering process to broaden the scope of commissioned residential care provision with the aim of achieving more choice of type, operating model and location. The aim of the retendering process was achieved and the new residential contract will commence in February 2016. During 2015 we will have joined additional sub regional and regional commissioning frameworks for both residential care and Independent Fostering agencies to achieve the same goals.

7.8 Our commissioning model follows the four phases of the cycle outlined below:



8. Edge of Care

- 8.1 The Early Help strategy developments include support from social workers to partner organisations to help manage risk at lower levels outside of social work intervention. More support is being provided to the children on the edge of care. With targeted resource at the 8-16 year olds. These include residential short breaks, outreach and family group conferencing.
- 8.2 **Havenbrook** short break residential service was piloted in June 14 to provide short breaks for non-disabled children on the edge of care. 43 children used the service in the six month pilot period. 29 on a planned short breaks, 2 of these subsequently became LAC. 13 used a crisis short breaks, six of whom were subsequently brought into LA care.
- 8.3 An audit of this cohort has been completed to measure longer term impact and is detailed below.



8.4 The above chart confirms current outcome one year on for 43 young people who received a support breaks within the first six months June _ Dec of the Havenbrook pilot.

8.5 13 (30.2%) of young people have been accommodated during this period.
30 (70%) children and young people remained out of LAC since receiving a support service from Havenbrook.

8.6 Outcomes for those who did not become LAC:

- Home with Short breaks. 6 (13%)
- Home without Short Breaks or allocated worker 11 (26%)
- Home without Short breaks with other service support 11 (26%)
- Independent living with 16+ support 2 (5%)

8.7 From 31st March 2015 to 1st December 2015 there have been 75 different young people who have accessed short breaks at Havenbrook. Of the 75 young people, 49 were planned short breaks and 26 accessed the service on a Crisis basis.

8.8 Of the 75 young people 50 (66.6%) are still at home (16 have had, or are still receiving Residential Outreach support and 23 are continue to access planned short breaks). 25(33.3%) young people have been accommodated or were already accommodated by the Local Authority.

8.9 **Financial Impact** - Previous analysis of LAC over three years identified an average care duration of four months once a child is received into LA care. Using an average cost of a placement in an internal foster care (£1,983) the prevention of 30 children coming into the

care system represents a £237,960 potential saving on the placement budget. This would be greater if any of those young people had required external foster care or residential

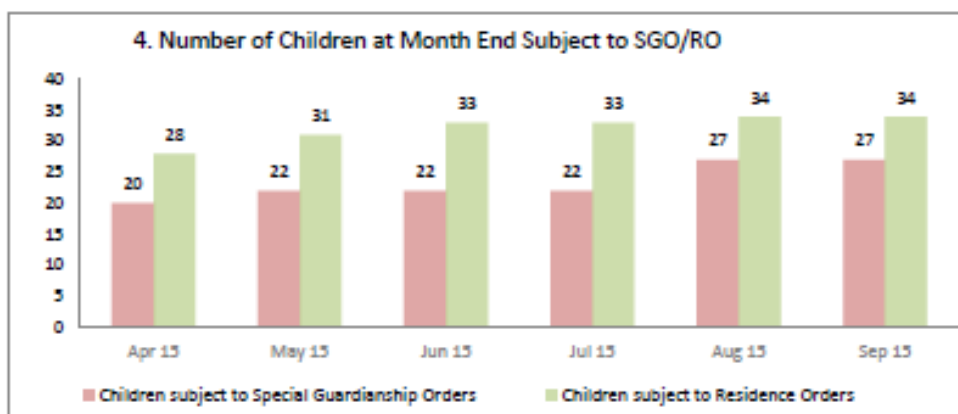
8.10 **In March 2015** a new Support Prevention panel (SPP) was introduced to manage all voluntary S20 care requests from parents and or young people. The aim of the panel being to challenge and support parents to exercise their parental responsibility in caring for their children in the family home where it was considered safe to do so. The impact of this is yet to be demonstrated but early indications are positive.

8.12 Exit from Care

The larger number of LAC with full care order was identified in our three year analysis which identified a significant number of very young children with permanency care plans being within LA care i.e. FFC / Foster care.

8.13 Long term care planning is a significant factor in understanding Shropshire’s position and performance in relation to children exiting care. Our three year LAC analysis undertaken, May 2014, identified high number of very young children having been received into care with a long term care plan of a LAC status, some with friends and family carers and some in foster care.

During 2014/15 we have done work with carers and social workers and IRO’s to promote permanency care options that give children permanency and stability in a care arrangements outside of LA care including SGO, Adoptions. The impact of this work has seen an increase of SGOs five children of four families moved to SGO in 2014 (in the previous 2 years we had 1 new SGO carer). This has risen in the current year (see below chart) and there are currently (October 2015) 11 open SGO assessments.



8.15 In Shropshire, our aim is to achieve permanency for children outside of Local Authority Care. Wherever possible and safe to do so our intention should always be to support the birth parents to provide care that meets the permanence needs of their child or children in a secure and continuous way. The permanency policy was updated and launched in Autumn 2015 and it provides a framework to underpin the care planning practice.

9. Adoption

- 9.1 The Joint Adoption Service (JAS) of Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council was established in 1998 to provide a comprehensive adoption service to children placed in the local authorities of Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin. The arrangement was that this service level agreement would be reviewed every five years and more recently every three years. The Joint Adoption Service are an active part of the West Midlands Consortium of adoption agencies.
- 9.2 The Adoption Service is committed to recruiting adopters who can meet the needs of children both regionally and nationally, if capacity within the team allows. JAS works within the required timescales prescribed in National Statutory guidance to recruit, assess and approve prospective adopters.
- 9.3 Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Council's recognise that the Adoption and Post Adoption Support Agencies play a pivotal role in meeting its responsibilities in respect of children in public care for whom adoption is the plan and for adopted children, adoptive parents, adopted adults and members of a child's birth family who have been in some way touched by adoption.
- 9.4 The JAS and Post Adoption Support Services place the child's needs as their central concern and focus for service provision. The Services adhere to the principles of good child care practice spelled out in the Regulations and Guidance of the Children Act, the Adoption and Children Act and the National Minimum Standards in respect of Adoption and Adoption Support Agencies.
- 9.5 JAS endeavours to work closely with social work teams in identifying children requiring adoptive placements, and will introduce a system of tracking and monitoring meetings, which will provide information on the number, needs and individual profiles of children who are likely to be in need of adoption.
- 9.6 Careful consideration is given to the type of family needed for each particular child. Effective communication between JAS and child care teams is the key to inform the number of prospective adopters required.
- 9.7 The number of adopters required each year is reviewed annually but in the year 2014-15 we recruited 42 adopters and placed 47 children. In 2015-2016, 45 will need to be recruited to meet the needs of Shropshire's and Telford and Wrekin's children, and to increase the number of adopters regionally to meet the needs of children outside the Shropshire area, due to the nationwide shortage of adoptive families particularly for older children and large sibling groups.
- 9.8 **Regionalising Adoption**
Following the publication of the government's expectations in relation to adoption reforms in [Regionalising Adoption](#) on 19 June, Local Authorities were tasked with coming up with proposals to develop regional adoption agencies that meet the following criteria:

- Approximately or at least 200 children a year. Could start small and scale up, but cannot be 2 small LAs coming together
- Innovative ideas re LAs working with each other, with VAAs or outside of LA control. Scope can be wider than “just” adoption. Could use models like social enterprise etc. or those similar to the Social Work Practice model.
- We would need to target activity to meet the needs of the area we serve.

9.9 Indeed in October 2015 a successful bid was made to DfE to scope and define a proposed regional adoption agency that would see Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council (JAS), Walsall Council, Wolverhampton City Council, Sandwell Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and a Voluntary Adoption Agency come together as one regional adoption agency. Work continues at a strategic level through a regional steering group, ADCS West Midlands and the regional ALB.

10. Care Leavers

- 10.1 There are a variety of options that have been commissioned or are part of Shropshire’s in house provision that are available for young people moving towards independence in Shropshire
- 10.2 **SAAIL** (Supported Accommodation and Independent Living) is a locally based company that rents 2/3 bed properties for 2 care leavers to share and provides an agreed level of staff support that can be stepped down as required – used as a step down from residential care for young people who are making good progress to adulthood. This provider can also provide single and more supported placements for higher need young people.
- 10.3 **JustOne** is a private company based in the North West. The model is single occupancy rented accommodation that can take care leavers with needs around mental health / substance misuse / offending. The service can provide 2:1 support 24/7 if the need is identified. This is utilised as an alternative to residential care. Support can be stepped down as progress made and the move to more independent living becomes more achievable.
- 10.4 Both companies above are registered with the West Midlands Framework of which Shropshire is a party.
- 10.5 **Supported Board and Lodgings** is Shropshire Council managed and funded post 16 family based accommodation for care leavers up to age 21 years (over if in education) – provides for care leavers with minimal support needs through to care leavers who require a higher level of support – e.g. around mental health; these are known as SWAN (Support With Additional Needs) with usually around 5 young people being in these arrangements
- 10.6 **SHIP** (Supported Housing Independence Project) is commissioned by Shropshire Council Housing Options and delivered by Shropshire Housing Alliance. Four 2 bed house shares for care leavers aged 16 – 21 with floating support from Shropshire Housing Alliance. This provides occupational licences to reside until ready for move on to a tenancy. The continued commissioning of this provision will be reviewed in 2016 / 17.
- 10.7 **The Leaving Care Training** flat is currently ‘in between providers’ – looking at a new resource from SHA – aim is to start the real life experience of independence with short periods of occupancy (either supported by staff from a residential placement or sole occupancy)

- 10.8 There are also 5 crisis beds in 16-25 year old mainstream Supported Housing which are commissioned by Shropshire's Housing Options Team and available to homeless young people or care leavers who lose their accommodation. 16 – 25 year old care leavers can access occupational licences in the five supported housing units in Shropshire.

11. Disabled Children

- 11.1 Securing accommodation which 'meets needs' has implications for a number of aspects of service provision including children with disabilities.
- 11.2 There is a range of services commissioned and provided in house which are used to meet the sufficiency requirement in Shropshire.
- 11.3 **Section 20 children supported by DCT**
- The Disabled Children's Team Social Workers support 5 children who are Section 20 (4) Short Breaks (allocated over 75 nights per annum).
 - There are 21 Section 20 (1) LAC children supported by Social Workers from the Disabled Children's Team. 6 children are in Education settings (Sunfield & Overley Hall), 8 are with Foster Carers (7 in Shropshire and 1 child living out of Shropshire) and 7 children are living in residential settings in Shropshire.
 - 4 LAC children living with Foster Carers are also receiving daycare and overnight short breaks with Family Based Shared Carers and commissioned residential short break providers (Men Cap and Action for Children).
- 11.4 **Section 17 (6) children**
Total number of children supported by Disabled Children's Team staff are 136, Social Workers hold 104 cases supported by Family Support Worker and 32 cases held by Short Breaks Reviewing Officer (low level provision, monitored and reviewed on a six monthly basis).
- 11.5 **The Range of Shropshire Short Break assessed provision include;**
6 children access overnight care through Shropshire Council Family Based Share Care,
51 children access a specialist residential home - Bradbury House or Willows (Men Cap and Action for Children);
42 children are supported through Direct Payments;
5 children are supported with Personal Care in the child's own home provided by an agency registered with CQC;
7 children access Childminding/afterschool club (Ofsted registered);
8 children receive sessional support provided by an agency registered with CQC;
39 children access Shropshire Activity Support (Action for Children – Specialist Activities Clubs).
- 11.6 **Shropshire's duty to provide non-assessed Short Breaks**
Shropshire Council's Short Breaks programme via its *All In* projects have supported 1,779 disabled children and children with additional needs over the data collection period of 4 years. In addition to supporting the disabled child, 327 siblings have also accessed *All In* projects.

- 11.7 Shropshire Council's Short Breaks programme support **All In** providers and universal provision with developing the workforce with training and grants to improve access to the environment and purchase specialist equipment.
- 11.8 Parent Carers of disabled children have a key role with the Short Breaks Commissioning Group Parent including the planning of service specifications and tender evaluation, providing feedback on the delivery of the services, and being involved in the review of services.
- 11.9 **Range of non-assessed Short Breaks ([All In programme](#)) include;**
- All year round school holiday play schemes;
 - Saturday Activity Clubs;
 - Cycling projects county wide for families;
 - Music courses;
 - Arts and crafts clubs;
 - Sports Village and Shrewsbury Town Football Club community sports trust delivering football skills and multi-sport activities;
 - Trampolining;
 - Swimming lessons and swimming clubs;
 - Horse riding and carriage driving for the disabled;
 - Autism specific clubs, featuring music, drama, creative arts, team games, gardening, and sensory free play, soft play;
 - Autism family friendship groups;
 - Autism independence summer programmes;
 - Shropshire Youth Clubs;
 - Angling sessions;
 - Shropshire Youth Clubs in Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and Ludlow;
 - Coached angling sessions

12. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

- 12.1 In accordance legislation and with Shropshire Council's vision for children, our approach is that Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are entitled to the same quality of services as children normally resident within the boundaries of the county. They are seen as children first and foremost, vulnerable and in need of care, protection and encouragement.
- 12.2 In Shropshire the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children has historically been and is low. In 2015 \ 16 there were 3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who were assessed and provided with accommodation and Looked After Child services under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.
- 12.3 A range of provision is and will continue to be utilised to provide appropriate accommodation options including foster care and Supported Board and Lodgings (a semi independence post 16 family based accommodation provision which is funded and managed by Shropshire Council).

13. Young People in Custody or Remanded to Local Authority Care

- 13.1 People under 18 who are sentenced to custody are sent to secure centres for young people, not to adult prisons. A court can give a young person a [custodial sentence](#) if:
- the crime is so serious there is no other suitable option
 - the young person has committed crimes before
 - the judge or magistrate thinks the young person is a risk to the public
- 13.2 A young person can also be sent to custody on [remand](#).
- 13.3 The Youth Justice Board decides which secure centre a young person will be sent to. They will choose somewhere that:
- can deal with the young person's needs safely, e.g. if they have a health problem
 - is suitable for their age, sex and background
 - is as near to their home as possible
- 13.4 The youth remand provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 came into force on 3 December 2012. They make significant changes to the remand framework for 10 to 17 year olds in criminal proceedings.
- 13.5 The Act imposes a new scheme for remands of children (other than on bail). All children must now be remanded into local authority accommodation, or (where certain criteria are met) Youth Detention Accommodation. In both situations, the cost of this accommodation must be met by the designated local authority, and the child will attain Looked After status.
- 13.6 The main changes are:
- i. All children under 18 will be subject to the same remand criteria, compatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - ii. Previously 17-year-olds were effectively treated like adults and were required to be remanded to prison
 - iii. All children not released on bail must now be remanded to local authority accommodation, unless certain specified conditions justify remand to Youth Detention Accommodation. All such children will be Looked After.
- 13.7 This means if remanded to local authority care the young person can be placed in any accommodation provided by or on behalf of a local authority.
- 13.8 In 2014 \ 15 there were 2 young people from Shropshire refused bail and remanded into youth detention centres due to the nature of the alleged offences.

14. Priorities 2016-19

In order for Shropshire to be resource 'sufficient' during the next three years we will continue our work to the support and maintain diversity of services to better meet the needs of children to achieve permanency by strengthening families through the provision of preventive and early help services and delivering good quality and timely care planning for those who need to be looked after children ; In order to do this we will:

- further develop the work of our edge of care provision including planned and crisis short breaks and outreach support to families in the community and support stability of foster placements through outreach and short breaks
- Increase the voice of the child to better understand the quality and the child's experience of our fostering and residential provision in Shropshire
- Support the step- down from residential to foster care where family based care experience is in the child's best interest
- Continue to support the seeking of permanency through Adoption, Special Guardianship or Care Arrangement Orders as a permanency option where identified in the child's best interest and provide support and training to those carers to enable them to meet the needs of children in their care
- Continue our management and review of commissioned foster care and residential care placements to ensure children are matched to placements best able to meet their needs and at best value to the LA. We will do this through recommissioning our block contract for residential providers locally and we will explore and join sub and regional frameworks for commissioning a range of other placement provisions
- Review the needs of our LAC population who are moving to adulthood as care leavers to ensure there is a range of accommodation and support services available to them achieve continued stability and outcomes in health and education/employment
- Place children within their Local Authority where this is reasonably practicable and where it is consistent with a child's needs and welfare; We will target our fostering recruitment according to need and develop our training offer to ensure high quality and well supported carers and continue to recruit foster carers who can provide permanency and placements for adolescents and sibling groups.
- Provide a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent service to those interested in adoption to enable trust of the adoption service to develop; respond quickly to enquiries and provide prospective adopters access to all necessary information to assist them in their decision making process.
- Find families for Shropshire children awaiting permanence through adoption AND be ambitious and positively consider a broader range of children and recruit equally ambitious prospective adopters. This will be strengthened through the development and progression of the Regional Adoption Agency.
- Provide a post adoption service that is flexible to the needs of adoptive families experiencing challenges or difficulties by providing a range of therapeutic support either directly or through commissioning including accessing the Adoption Support Fund.

January 2016 (Full Review date January 19)

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Shropshire Council
Safeguarding

Children's Placement Service

Payment Arrangements for
Foster Carers

1) Introduction

This document outlines the scheme for payment to foster carers offering family based care to Shropshire children.

The arrangements outlined in this document represent a continued commitment to family based care and a real attempt to recognise the skills and expertise of carers and reward them accordingly. It is also an attempt to reinforce the fair and transparent payment structure coupled with the Council's commitment to continue paying Fostering Network's recommended allowances and represents a realistic reward structure given the pressures on the public purse in 2015.

We believe that not only does the scheme afford carers the status they deserve by introducing a process whereby their expertise can be measured but also raises the profile of family based care in Shropshire and therefore renders us more effective in the area of carer retention and recruitment.

More importantly, by constantly striving to increase the skill base of all our foster carers we should see a consequent improvement in placement stability leading to better outcomes for Shropshire's looked after children.

The scheme is only available to foster carers approved by, and registered with, Shropshire Council. It is designed to recognise the range of skills and experience that carers and prospective carers possess, as well as the time and commitment involved in caring for children who are looked after by this Authority.

The scheme includes all approved foster carers except for those providing Supported Board and Lodgings and 'Connected Persons' whose payments have been considered elsewhere although relative carers do receive recommended allowances but not a Payment For Skills 'fee'.

2) Standards and Levels of Payment

Foster Care child allowances and Payment for Skills rates are reviewed annually. However, there cannot be a guaranteed increase in fees each year. New payment rates are circulated to all foster carers the beginning of each new financial year.

There will be 3 levels of skills payment, all of which involve payment of a fee in addition to the child allowance.

3) Outline of the Scheme

The basis of the scheme is that carers should be paid by reference to their skills, rather than to the problems presented by individual children placed with them. The acquisition and subsequent maintenance of the necessary skills will be checked by reference to detailed examination of the evidence through the completion of the relevant competency document(s)

All placements will start at Level 1. This fee is payable fifty-two weeks a year subject to certain conditions being met (see section 7) Fee to commence one first child is in placement.

Progression through the skill levels can take place if the criteria specified are achieved. Each level has a fee apportioned which reflects a carer's expertise and experience.

Level 3 is the highest standard to be achieved by all carers. The competencies, identified as essential for each level, must be clearly demonstrated

In addition, carers will receive Fostering Network recommended allowances for each child they look after but only for the duration of the placement.

If a child is temporarily transferred to another carer then the allowance follows the child in such instances. Allowances to the main carer, however, will continue to be paid for a period of up to 2 weeks (maximum) where the child cared for returns home to family care on a trial basis. In exceptional circumstances this can be extended by senior management.

For carers offering Day Care or Day Fostering, the payment will be as follows:

Up to 4 hours – ½ of the daily allowance.

Over 4 hours (including over nights) – the full daily allowance (1/7th of weekly allowance).

4) Annual Reviews

Regular min 4 - max 8 weekly supervision sessions which offer support and guidance will be undertaken by a nominated social worker in the fostering service. Every effort will be made to pride consistency in a nominated worker to help establish a relationship between carer and the service. Support for foster carers is highly recommended.

The first formal review will be held after a young person has been in placement for six months, thereafter annual foster carer reviews will be held. Each review brings together the views of children and young people who have experience the placement in the reviewable period, the carers, the supervising social worker and the case management social workers.

The review is chaired by a person representing the Children's Placements service. This will be the opportunity for information regarding skills progression, abilities and learning to be shared and for a recommendation for continued registration for a further year to be agreed for presentation to the Fostering Panel.

Annual reviews are a formal part of the agreement for foster carers and are separate to their supervision. Supervision sessions will inform the annual review. Foster cares are expected to contribute to and attend review meetings.

Each review will be presented to the Fostering Sub-Panel. If there are issues / concerns this could be presented to fostering main panel.

Following discussions at the annual foster carer review, the evidence for progression of Payment for Skills will be presented to the Team Manager Children's Placements as this is an operational decision making process. The final decision regarding approval at a higher (or lower) level, however, once all the required criteria has been met, rests with the Service Manager who will take into account the evidence presented and

the Team Manager's views

NB: Any newly appointed carers with previous fostering or relevant professional child care experience may enter the scheme at a higher level.

5) Contact with birth family and friends

Maintaining contact with birth family and friends is a duty of the LA and an important part of the child's life during separation whether this is temporary or to be permanent in the long term. As corporate parents we will always seek to support a child to maintain a level of contact that is in their best interest and as such a carer as on behalf of the LA is expected to support the agreed plan of contact in a child's care plan.

We recognise however that supporting and facilitating contact with birth parents can be a challenge and below we identify core responsibilities that reflect the level of expertise of the carer.

Level 1: carer may undertake contact with birth family as part of a child care plan if there are no risk identified and the carer feels sufficiently confident in the role

Level 2: carer will facilitate contact with birth family. This includes taking and collecting children from contact sessions and having direct contact with a parents through a supervising worker (determined on a case by case basis and should take into account the situation and logistics of all placements in care at the time)

Level 3: carer will supervise contact with birth family as identified and within the child's care plan (determined on a case by case basis and should take into account the situation and logistics of all placements in care at the time)

In all cases a risk assessment will be undertaken by the foster care social worker. Where the assessments identifies any risk an action plan to minimise and manage any risk to the carer or the placement stability will be put in place and agreed by the carer..

6) Progression process to Level Two and Three

To progress to Level Two and Three the competencies laid down will need to be clearly evidenced and demonstrated in the care provided. Any gaps that were identified at Level One should no longer exist.

Supervising Social Workers and carers will need to satisfy the requirements and provide the evidence for the level for which they wish to be considered.

It is the responsibility of the supervising social worker to analyse the evidence and make an assessment of each carer's degree of competence.

Should a complaint or allegation be made against a foster carer being assessed for progression then the process would be suspended until appropriate investigations are completed.

Once the complaint or allegation investigation is completed the supervising social worker will complete report of outcomes with a recommendation as to whether the next competency level of progression should continue or not and any relevant recommendations regarding the carers continued practice and level of competence highlighted as an issue in the complaint/investigation.

The Team Manager will have discretion to agree progression in such matters although foster carers can make a written representation to the Service Manager should they wish to challenge the decision of the Team Manager.

Supervising Social workers must stress that the competencies are only one element of the overall criteria that must be met for progression, and actual performance plays a significant part. 'Performance' will be measured by paying close attention to outcomes for children in placement.

Research indicates the following areas are crucially important in determining whether or not a placement has been successful and supervising social workers assessing the case for progression will pay close attention to these areas :

- Did the placement(s) last as long as needed?
- Did the child (ren) participate in decisions affecting their day to day care in placement?
- Was contact maintained with family, friends?
- Did the child's well-being improve as a result of the placement?
- Was the child supported to engage in a healthy active lifestyle?
- Were the child's health and educational needs met as well or better in the foster placement than before?
- Was the child's identity (racial, cultural, and religious) respected?
- Was the child able to move-on successfully with the minimum stress and disruption?
- Was the child generally satisfied with the placement?

Clearly, these factors are not solely in the hands of carers and other professionals need to play their part in contributing to a successful placement outcome. It is important, however, for assessing social workers to identify the role played by carers in attempting to deliver on the aforementioned outcomes.

6.1 Level two

Progression to Level Two by a carer is when the following criteria are fulfilled:

A minimum of 12 months fostering experience as a fee paid carer.

Completion of the twelve mandatory courses

Additional training courses; 'Polly Burns' and 'The Solihull Approach' (by both carers in a two carer household)

Carer will facilitate contact with birth family. This includes taking and collecting children from contact sessions and having direct contact with a parents through a supervising worker.

Competencies detailed for Level Two must be are clearly understood and demonstrated in the care offered. The carer and Supervising Social Worker must produce evidence, for each competency, to satisfy the Children's Placements Manager, that they are all met.

6.2 Level Three

Progression to Level Three by a carer who has already achieved level two and when the following criteria are fulfilled:-

A minimum of 2 years fostering experience as a fee paid carer

Completion of the twelve mandatory courses

Additional training course 'Team Teach' (by both carers in a two carer household)

Take children who have been in residential or family placements and are stepping back into a family care arrangement

Demonstrate an ability to work independently of the social worker in 'partnership' with other professionals responsible for delivering against the child's care plan.

Engaged in regular mentoring and/or training of other carers

NB: Mentoring can be defined as follows: The foster carers mentoring role as one in which the more experienced carer would support a more recently approved carer in developing specific skills and knowledge that will enhance and develop the less-experienced carers professional and personal growth.

As such they will provide guidance their colleague about a specific issue, coach them in developing a particular skill, facilitate their development by sharing resources, contact and networks, challenge them to move beyond their comfort zone with particular issues that may arise in placement, help the carer to reflect and develop following challenging or difficult issues as they arise.

In this way they will act as an experienced and trusted colleague, guiding them on practice, acting as a confident or consultant when the carer doesn't wish to initially discuss particular issues with their link worker

7) Exceptional Skills payment

We expect a high standard of care and commitment from all foster carers to enabling children in their care to achieve outcomes against their care plan. Levels 1, 2 and 3 skills payments is the financial reward given for this however we also believe that for certain children the level of skill and commitment required for a period of time may mean that a carer has to go "above and beyond"

Discretionary exceptional skills payments can be made for a placement of three months or more where the carer has been able to demonstrate care skills and commitment "above and beyond" that has met a child or young person's needs and has achieved excellent outcomes as determined by the child's care plan and placement plan.

It is anticipated that exceptional skills payment will relate to larger sibling groups, teenage placements or younger children with significantly challenging behaviours.

Requests for an exceptional skills payment will be made after each successful three month period in placement.

Criteria for exceptional skills : a child has been in placement for a minimum of three months and has achieved exceptional outcomes against their care plan sustained for a three month period

AND

The skills and commitment of the carers have gone “above and beyond” good quality standard care and have they been a primary contributor to enabling the child to reach these outcomes.

Example:

- School attendance has been below 60% and has increased in excess of 85%
- The child has for the first time engaged in a social or leisure activity that has significantly promoted their opportunity to develop peer friendships, age appropriate independence and to improve their self-esteem
- The child’s previous anti social behaviour in school or the community has been seen to make significant improvements verified by external parties

8) Demonstrating Competency – examples

Use of existing processes as evidence e.g. Childs feedback to IRO and LAC reviews, foster carer agreement, diary, supervising social worker visits to carer - both announced and unannounced, Health and Safety checklist and supervision records.

Other sources of evidence e.g. use of feedback from child’s social worker via end of placement reports/review document and feedback from parents.

Portfolio approach by carer - other sources, videos, group discussions.

Other evidence-based assessment processes e.g. Ofsted, TSD (Training Support and Development) standards.

Standardised format regarding content and recording of supervising social worker visits to carers incorporating checklist against competencies/criteria, contact sheets, supervision records etc.

This is not an exhaustive list and carers can provide a range of evidence they feel reflect the work they have done and what they have achieved for children in their care.

9) Training and Support

All carers will have the opportunity to attend carer forums. These forums offer the possibility for carers carrying out similar tasks to meet each other, share their experiences and learning. It is encouraged that all carers attend such forums and encourage new carers to do likewise.

The Children's Placement Service expects carers at level three to attend both carer forums and training. Travel cost to these forums will be paid.

It is the responsibility of the supervising social worker, in discussion with the carer, to identify each carer's training needs beyond the core training identified below. These needs will be discussed, agreed and updated at each annual review.

There are twelve core courses that foster carers are expected to attend. These are:

- First Aid
- Equal Opportunities
- Managing behaviour
- Child Protection
- Sexual health
- Loss, Grief and Bereavement
- Child development
- Allegations against foster carers
- Attachment
- Safer caring
- Contact
- Infection control

10. Headline additional payment information

In addition to the increase in allowances and the payment for skills levels the following additional payments will also apply:

Payment of Birthday/Christmas or Festival/Holiday allowances for the child

Mileage will be paid at **0.45p** per mile for travel to school, travel to Contact, travel to health appointments and travel incurred in supporting the child to meet tasks and undertake activities within their care plan. This will include travel to clubs up to two per week per child, *any activity up to a 30 mile radius*. This does not include holidays, day trips or shopping expeditions.

There will also be a holiday grant of **£150.00** for each child under 14, and **£200.00** for each child aged 14 and over, payable during the first week of June.

A holiday allowance of **£300.00** will also be paid to foster carers payable during the first pay week in June. Carers are eligible for 2 weeks *paid* holiday per year.

11. Ceasing the Skills based payment

The fee will be paid from the date of a foster carers' first placement, then paid 52 weeks per year irrespective of a child being in placement and includes when a carer is on holiday for up to two weeks or during an agreed

break of up to seven days following a difficult placement.

Longer breaks, unless agreed with the Children's Placement Team Manager, will result in skills based payment being suspended (unless mitigating circumstances exist).

The exception to this rule is when a carer refuses to take a placement on two successive occasions which has been deemed by the CPS Duty system as a suitable match. Unless unusual and mitigating circumstances are evident the skills based payment will be withdrawn

NB The offer of placement must be within the carers' registration age group and deemed by the CPS duty system as appropriate. If refusal on two occasions occurs then this will trigger an annual review. This will not apply in cases where a formal agreement has been made not to place in order to protect a child already in placement for a specific period.

If a carer remains without a placement for 12 consecutive months or more (for whatever reason), then a reassessment and panel re-approval must take place before caring can resume.

All carers will be expected to give 28 days' notice of their intention to end a placement and (at the very minimum 7 working days. No placement will end, irrespective of the time frame, without first having attended a placement consolidation meeting, and have the change of care plan agreed by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).

Foster carers will be faced with suspension from caring and their fee payment temporarily withdrawn should they demand that a child be removed from their care with immediate effect.

Having children ejected from foster placements in this manner is totally unacceptable and contrary to the best principles of placement stability. However, suspension will not follow if serious and clearly evidenced health and safety issues have resulted in a carer requesting immediate removal.

12. Safeguarding Allegation against carers

If a carer is suspended and children removed following an allegation the fee will be paid for up to 8 weeks following the date of a strategy meeting recommending investigation.

Whether or not payments continue beyond the 8 week point is discretionary and will be decided on a case by case basis by the Team Manager who will consider any mitigating circumstances leading to a delay in resolution which may be outside the carer's control.

In cases where concerns have come to light regarding a Foster Carers' practice which do not meet the more serious allegations threshold then CPS reserve the right to suspend the fee until such issues are investigated and addressed. However every effort will be made to prioritise completion of any such investigation and it is expected this will be completed in no more than 28 working days

13. Carer ill health

If a carer is unable to take a placement on the grounds of ill health we would need this certifying within 7 days. If not the fee payment will cease. After receipt of certification up to or on the 7th day the fee will be

paid at the full rate for the first two months of sickness absence; half-rate for the following two months at which point payments would cease until a resumption of fostering occurred. The fee would be reinstated at any point during this four month period should fostering resume. On returning from a break due to certified sickness the foster carer in question must foster for an unbroken period of four months before gaining entitlement to these arrangements for a further period. If a carer remains inactive due to ill health for a period of twelve months or more a re-assessment, plus a medical will need to take place before they can resume their fostering career.

14. Implications of a Reward Element

Receiving a reward element as a carer can be of concern to some people, in relation to tax, and in particular, benefits. It is hoped the following notes will be of help: -

14.1 Income Tax

When you start fostering there is no one to tell HMRC about your income, except you. You will need to complete a Self-Assessment tax return each year and send it to HMRC.

The quickest and easiest way to register your self-employment is online. When you use this method, you will also automatically be signed up for the Self-Assessment Online Service.

The simplified income tax scheme for foster carers is called 'qualifying care relief' by HMRC. Foster carers who are full time or part time, such as day carers and respite carers, can all use qualifying care relief. The scheme uses an income threshold to work out how much tax, if any, is due. As long as your total income from fostering is below the threshold, there is no tax due on fostering income.

If you have income from fostering above the threshold, you can choose to work out your taxable profit in the normal way for self-employed people (by setting allowable expenses against your income from fostering). Alternatively, the simplified method means you can simply treat the amount by which your income from fostering is above the threshold as your taxable profit.

The threshold for the foster care tax relief scheme has two elements

- A fixed amount of £10,000* per year. This is applied pro-rata if you were approved part-way through the year.
- Additional amount per child depending on age: £200* per week for every child aged 0-10 and £250* per week for every child aged 11- 18. Part of a week counts as a full week

* These figures may be subject to change from year to year.

At the end of each financial year, Shropshire Council is responsible for providing carers with a statement of their reward element. This statement will be made minus the agreed costs of providing a service.

14.2 National Insurance

All self-employed people who are aged 16 and over, but below women's pension age or 65 (for men), must register to pay Class 2 NICs. These are set at £2.70 a week for 2013/14. HMRC's Internal Adviser's Guide states that all foster carers should register as self-employed (for national insurance purposes), even when they are exempt from income tax

14.3 National Insurance Credits and Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP)

Prior to 6 April 2010, you could claim HRP to protect your state pension. This has now ended, replaced by a system of national insurance credits (NI credits) for parents of children under 12 and foster carers. Since 6 April 2010, you have been able to build up qualifying years for the basic State Pension and additional State Pension through new weekly NI credits. If you are a foster carer or parent, you can get an NI credit for each week in which any of the following apply:

- You are the parent of a child aged under 12 and care for them, but don't receive Child Benefit for the child
- You are an approved foster carer.

There is no limit to the number of years in which you can get credits, as long as you meet the qualifying rules. Applications for NI credits can be made on form CF411A (available from Job Centre Plus or tax offices, or by calling HMRC on 0845 302 1479 or at www.hmrc.gov.uk/forms/cf411a.pdf) and must be made within one year of the end of the tax year.

14.4 Foster care and Tax Credits

Working tax credit (WTC) tops up the income of low paid workers. Fostering counts as self-employment, so you might be entitled to WTC, as your profit from fostering, for tax purposes, is nil or very small. If you have children of your own, you are possibly entitled to child tax credit (CTC) too. Fostered children do not count for CTC and cannot be included in your claim.

You can check your entitlement and claim tax credits by phoning the Tax Credits Helpline on 0845 300 3900. There is more information about WTC in the Fostering Network's Signposts in Fostering booklet Benefits. From October 2013, as part of a bigger welfare reform plan, WTC and CTC will begin to be replaced by a new benefit called Universal Credit although this will take around 4 years to be fully implemented. Foster carers may be able to get additional financial help through Universal Credit, as it removes the distinction between being 'in-work' (and claiming working tax credit) and out of work (and claiming income support, ESA, JSA, etc) . Those benefits, as well as housing benefit, will also be incorporated into Universal Credit, paid by the DWP.

Fostering Network provide helpful information leaflets on national insurance, tax, benefits and pension contributions.

Appendix

Shropshire Council Carers Allowances

To take effect from 01/04/2015

Age	Recommended Weekly Allowance	Daily Basic
0 - 4	£142.86	£20.41
5 - 10	£162.73	£23.24
11 - 15	£202.58	£29.84
16 +	£246.44	£35.20

Skill Level	Weekly payment
One	£58.00 per week
Two	£115.00 per week
Three	£225.00 per week
Exceptional Skills	£250.00 for 1 x 3 month period of exceptional achievement

Breakdown of Fostering Allowances

Age	Food	Clothing	Transport	Personal	Household	Total Allowance
-----	------	----------	-----------	----------	-----------	-----------------

0 -4	49.96	30.77	11.76	8.41	41.96	142.86
5 - 10	53.38	41.50	11.72	12.76	43.37	162.73
11 - 15	66.49	51.62	22.89	19.85	41.71	202.58
16+	76.02	62.89	22.86	41.12	43.55	246.44

(Birthday allowance will be paid one week in advance of the birthday.)

(Allowances are paid fortnightly unless alternative arrangements are made in exceptional circumstances.)

Festival Allowances

0 - 4 years	£57.00
5 - 7 years	£59.00
8 - 10 years	£62.00
11 - 13 years	£64.00
14 - 15 years	£66.00
16+	£68.00

Birthday Allowances

0 - 4 years	£44.00
5 - 7 years	£48.00
8 - 10 years	£54.00
11 - 13 years	£62.00
14 - 15 years	£68.00
16+	£74.00

Holiday Allowance

The carer/s should be able to evidence how this grant contributes to either a family holiday with the young person/s or additional holiday activities for the child or young person.

These can be applied for at the following rates:

A grant of **£150.00** for each child under 14, payable during the first pay week in June.

A grant of **£200.00** for each child aged 14 and over, payable during the first pay week in June.

A Holiday Allowance of **£300.00** to Foster Parents payable during the first pay week in June.

A Holiday Allowance of **£110.00** to Shared Care and Respite Carers payable during the first week in June *if they take the young person on holiday to support the adult costs.*

School Uniforms (where required)

Children starting junior school **£87.00**

Children transferring to secondary **£222.00**

(Payable in August, or the month prior to the child starting school)

Guidance for Pocket Money – updated by 1.8% for 2015

Fostered children's pocket monies are considered to be part of the basic allowance. The following guidance is given for the rates recommended for pocket monies:

0 - 4 years	£3.10
5 - 7 years	£4.78
8 - 10 years	£6.46
11 - 13 years	£8.39
14 – 15 years	£10.18
16+	£11.85

Initial clothing

This is a discretionary allowance and applications should be made to the relevant Team Manager. Case Managers should seek the co-operation of those who hold parental responsibility to make sure that the child has adequate personal clothing and personal effects collected from home to take with them when they are looked after. In relation to the revised allowances structure, an initial clothing allowance may not be required in each case but can be applied for up to a maximum amount of:

0 - 4 years	£100.00
5 - 7 years	£100.00
8 - 10 years	£150.00
11 - 13 years	£150.00
14 - 15 years	£200.00
16+	£200.00

Relative / Friend Carers – as updated for uplift by Fostering Network for 2015

0 – 4	£142.86
5 – 10	£162.73
11 – 15	£202.58
16 +	£246.44

Breakdown of Relative / Friend Carer Allowances

Age	Food	Clothing	Transport	Personal	Household	Total Allowance
0 -4	49.96	30.77	11.76	8.41	41.96	142.86
5 - 10	53.38	41.50	11.72	12.76	43.37	162.73
11 - 15	66.49	51.62	22.89	19.85	41.71	202.58
16+	76.02	62.89	22.86	41.12	43.55	246.44

All payments to relative carers etc will be reviewed annually

NB: Relative carers and friend carers do not receive any additional payments i.e. Holiday, Birthday, and Christmas

Mileage Allowances

The weekly allowance includes an amount to cover the transport costs of each foster child for things that are child related such as school or attendance at leisure activities. For a child up to the age of eleven this equates to 35 miles each week, for a young person eleven to fifteen it is 70 miles each week.

Where a carer can show over a four week period that they have exceeded this then the additional mileage will be paid at the rate of **0.45p** per mile.

NB: Carers can no longer claim for car travel to a holiday destination

Young Persons in work-contribution to care

When a young person is over the age of 16 and is working, they are expected to contribute towards their maintenance. The young person will be expected to contribute directly to the carers in this way unless in full-time education, or when it can be proven that they cannot secure a job, grant or benefits.

The boarding out allowances will be reduced by this amount accordingly. It is essential therefore that the Link Social Worker (CPS) is informed if a young person is working.

£10 per week for young people on a youth training scheme or one-third of the young person's wage income

Allowances for working young people in lodgings or with foster parents or in community homes

The following payment can be made to young people from allowances made in lieu of pocket money and in recognition that the young person may not receive any benefits.

If working or unemployed through no fault of their own:

Age 16:	£10.50
Age 17:	£13.00
Age 18:	£15.50

If not working through their own fault:

Age 16:	£7.60
Age 17:	£7.60
Age 18:	£13.00

Community Homes: Birthday and Christmas Allowances

Festival Allowances

0 - 4 years	£57.00
5 - 7 years	£59.00
8 - 10 years	£62.00
11 - 13 years	£64.00
14 - 15 years	£66.00
16+	£68.00

Birthday Allowances

0 - 4 years	£44.00
5 - 7 years	£48.00
8 - 10 years	£54.00
11 - 13 years	£62.00
14 - 15 years	£68.00
16+	£74.00

CHILD ARRANGEMENT ALLOWANCES - RATES OF PAYMENT & FINANCIAL CRITERIA

To take effect from 01/04/2015

The rates of payment set out below apply to all cases where a Child Arrangement Order allowance is deemed payable under the criteria set out in the Policy and Procedural item regarding Child Arrangement Order Allowance.

- 1 Child aged 0 - 10 years **£57.00** per week
- 2 Child aged 11 - 18 years **£64.50** per week

Child Benefit of **£13.40** per week will be deducted unless the Child Arrangement Order applicants are in receipt of income support.

Income ceilings of Child Arrangement Order Applicant to enable payment of Child Arrangement Order Allowances are as follows.

- 1 One child £12,000 per annum gross
- 2 Two children £18,000 per annum gross
- 3 Three children £24,000 per annum gross
- 4 Four children £30,000 per annum gross

Where prospective Child Arrangement Order Applicants have savings the following will apply:

No allowance payable in the following circumstances.

- 1 One child - savings above £10,000
- 2 Two children - savings above £14,000
- 3 Three children - savings above £18,000
- 4 Four children - savings above £22,000

The above will apply in respect of all adoptive placements and includes adoption by foster parents. As from 1 August 1995 no enhancement of allowances will be payable as part of the Child Arrangement Order allowance. Enhancements will continue to be paid where they were agreed prior to that date and are subject to annual review.

ADOPTION ALLOWANCES - RATES OF PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL CRITERIA

To take effect from 01/04/2015

The rates of payment set out below apply to all cases where an adoption allowance is deemed payable under the criteria set out in the Policy and Procedural Item the Adoption Allowances Regulations 1991.

- 1 Child aged 0 - 10 years **£57.00** per week
- 2 Child aged 11 - 18 years **£64.50** per week

Child Benefit of **£13.40** per week will be deducted unless the adoptive parents are in receipt of income support.

Income ceiling of prospective adoptive parents to enable payment of an adoption allowance are as follows:

- 1 One child £12,000 per annum gross
- 2 Two children £18,000 per annum gross
- 3 Three children £24,000 per annum gross
- 4 Four children £30,000 per annum gross

Where prospective adoptive parents have savings the following will apply:

No allowance payable in the following circumstances.

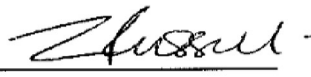
- 1 One child - savings above £10,000
- 2 Two children - savings above £14,000
- 3 Three children - savings above £18,000
- 4 Four children - savings above £22,000

The above will apply in respect of all adoptive placements and includes adoption by foster carers. As from 1 August 1995 no enhancement of allowances will be payable as part of an adoption allowance. Enhancements will continue to be paid where they were agreed prior to that date and are subject to annual review.

Signed _____ Print Name – Ann Hartley

Authorising Role _Lead Member

Date

Signed  Print Name – Tina Russell

Authorising Role _Head of Service Childrens Safeguarding

Date ... 15.4.15.....

Signed  Print Name – Tracy Griffiths

Authorising Role _On behalf of the SFCA___ Chair _____

Date ... 16.04.15.....

Signed _____ Print Name –

Authorising Role _On behalf of finance _____

Date

final draft v2 15.4.15

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

Authorisations for Local Authority Care

This form must be completed for all requests to accommodate children into LA care.

The purpose of the form is to pull together in one place the assessment of need and rational for agreeing accommodation into LA care and placement decisions. The form prompts staff at all levels to ensure they have followed appropriate procedures, considered all relevant legislation and have put in place a rational to enable a child or parent to see what decisions were made and why.

The request for care must be agreed by the Team Manager and the PALAC should be sent to the responsible Service Manager for authorisation.

Where the placement is Out of Area or the placement is external provision the service manager will send to the Head of Service AD for final authorisation.

Date of this request		Team	
Name of Social Worker		Name of Team Manager	

DETAILS of EACH CHILD REQUIRING LOCAL AUTHORITY PLACEMENT

NAME OF CHILD		DOB		CAREFIRST ID	
NAME OF CHILD		DOB		CAREFIRST ID	
HOME ADDRESS					
PARENTS DETAILS	Mother		Father		
Information on siblings that are NOT part of this referral					
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CURRENT CARE ARRANGEMENT e.g. home or LAC			

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

1) **Summarise** the Social Work Assessment and outline the **analysis** leading to the request for LA care.

2) **If this is a S20 request** being made by the parent of young person you must have presented the case to Support and Prevention Panel. Outline date and outcome of SPP

3) **Summarise** previous Children's Social Work Intervention (include this and other Local Authorities). Specifically outline: Previous S47 enquiries, Periods of Child Protection Plans, Previous Care history.

4) Details of any current or previous Legal Action/Care Proceedings. Include dates and outcome of any Legal Planning Meeting held

5) Has an initial/emergency placement of a child with extended family member, friends or connected person been identified?

Legislation:

Where a decision has been made to receive a child into Local Authority care the LA have a duty to try and identify a family member, friend or connected person to the child to act as carer on behalf of the LA in order to keep the child connected to its family community and to cause minimal disruption to the child's life.

Where an emergency placement is needed and a family member, that is familiar to the children and has no concerns from initial LA and Police checks can be identified, the children should be placed here rather than in an unfamiliar foster care arrangement.

The Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 regulation 24 allow for the emergency placement of a child with a connected person prior to the completion of the full assessment for a period of up to 16weeks if Service Manager for authorisation.

Full assessment can continue once in placement alongside any other connected persons assessments as part of the care planning for the children.

Yes - Continue section 5 and send to Service Manager:

No - move on to Section 6 of this form

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

To enter X place cursor at the front of the relevant box, left click on the mouse and select “checked”

Name of carer:	
Address:	
Relationship to child:	
Confirm outcome of police and LA checks	
Outline parents view on the FFC placement	

Service Manager authorisation and comments on a [connected person placement](#).

Name		Date:	

Where no family carer can be identified continue with completion of this form

6) Outline why a Family, Friend or connected Person care arrangement is not available or suitable. Give detail/relationship of those family contacted and ruled out.

7) What is the **parent** view on the child being received into local authority care

8) What is the **child/young person's** views on being received into local authority care

9) Internal placement options – to be completed by CPS and choice selected by Team Manager

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

Name of carer/unit	Placement type e.g. foster care residential	Note any specific placement issues which may inform the decision as to the most appropriate placement e.g. delayed available start date, restrictions on care provision	Choice selected by TM with rational

Plz indicate here if no internal matches are available based on vacancies and age matches

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Social Worker		Date	
Authorising TM to this Request		Date	

10) Service Manager authorisation **to internal placement** or comments where no internal placement available. If no internal placement / match appropriate proceeded to complete section 12)

Name		Date:	

Duration of placement agreed by Service Manager:

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Short Break / Shared Care

11) **Evidencing decision making and rational** : Please use this next section to record any ongoing discussion between managers / social worker to recorded ongoing discussion/rational and decision. **please date and sign each entry**

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

External Placement Details and Funding Authorisation

Selection and Authorisation of identified local authority care placement

12) Outline all external placement options identified within this search and provisional costs. All requests should go to the fostering framework (to be completed by placement co-ordinator)

	Name and Addresses of Provider and carer/unit	Placement type e.g. external foster care residential	Placement weekly cost per child	Additional costs requiring separate Service Agreement	Is this placement to be provided within the fostering or residential framework /contract	Note any specific placement issues which may inform the decision as to the most appropriate placement e.g. delayed available start date, restrictions on care provision
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

13) If the preferred placement is outside of Shropshire confirm that the following have been completed and addressed – detail issues/comments below

[The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations June 2015](#) state that local authorities are required to consult and share information **before** placing children in distant placements and the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) or the delegated officer must approve of these placements. These changes reinforce local authorities’ responsibilities as corporate parents for looked-after children to provide high quality care and support. (ALSO SEE APPENDIX 1)

- *Parents and Childs views, wishes and feelings regarding the proposed placement being outside Shropshire*
- *Any required changes in Education and Health provision currently received. Have services in the area (e.g. education and health) been identified to meet needs.*
- *If preferred placement will necessitate a change of Education provision where child at KS4, more detailed information is needed including details of proposed arrangements to minimise disruption of education*

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

- IRO views were an existing LAC child/young person.

For an emergency placement out of area, see Care Regs 3.36. Minimum requirement to ascertain wishes and feelings of child. Please record responses to the above four bullet points HERE.....

14) Team Manager / Service Manager to identify primary placement selected from options above. Include reasons for this being the most appropriate way to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare and meets child’s needs as set out in the Child’s Plan

15) Head of Service authorisation required for ALL out of area and external placements

Duration of placement agreed by HoS:

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Short Break / Shared Care

HoS Name		Date:	
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Appendix 1

Suggested Information for Discussion between Authorities when Planning Distant Placements

Basic information about the child

- Name and date of birth;
- Legal status (subject of a care order (s.31 Children Act); voluntarily accommodated (s.20) remanded (s. 21);
- Number of previous placements – outline reasons for child leaving earlier placements.

Plans for the child's care

- Details of the assessment of the child's needs, with information about the child's wishes and feelings, with reasons the planned placement is suitable;
- Duration of placement (emergency/short-term/long-term/permanent). If it is not possible to assess the intended duration of placement – reasons for this and when this information will be available;
- Details of who will be responsible for implementing plans for the child's day to day care (the 'placement plan') including details of arrangements for delegating responsibilities to the child's carer(s);
- Details of any plans to offer the child care leaving support (as an 'eligible child') during the anticipated duration of the placement;
- Contingency arrangements if the plan to support the child in the current placement does not succeed.

Services to support the child

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

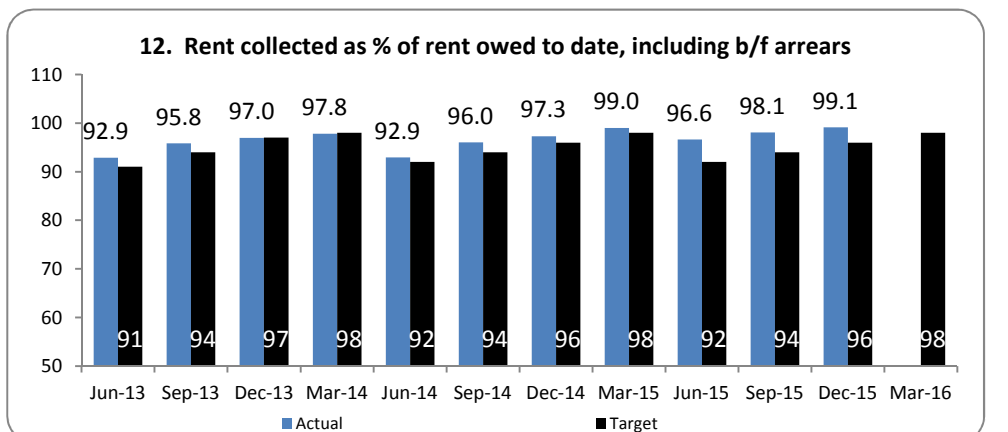
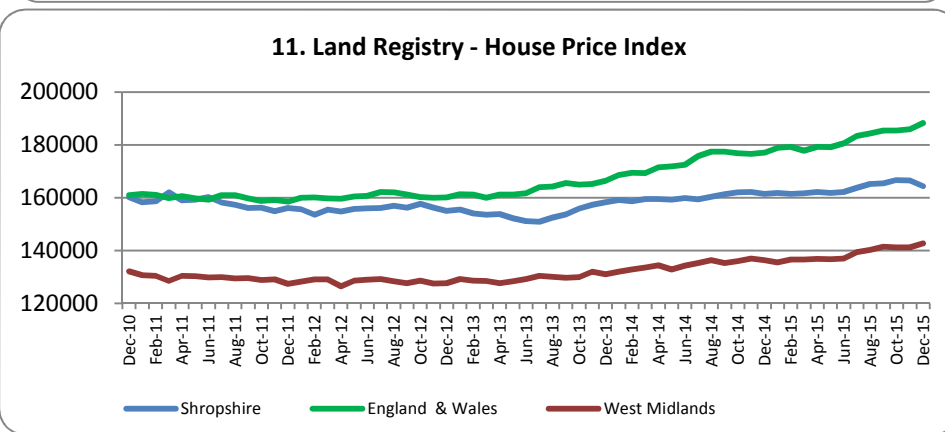
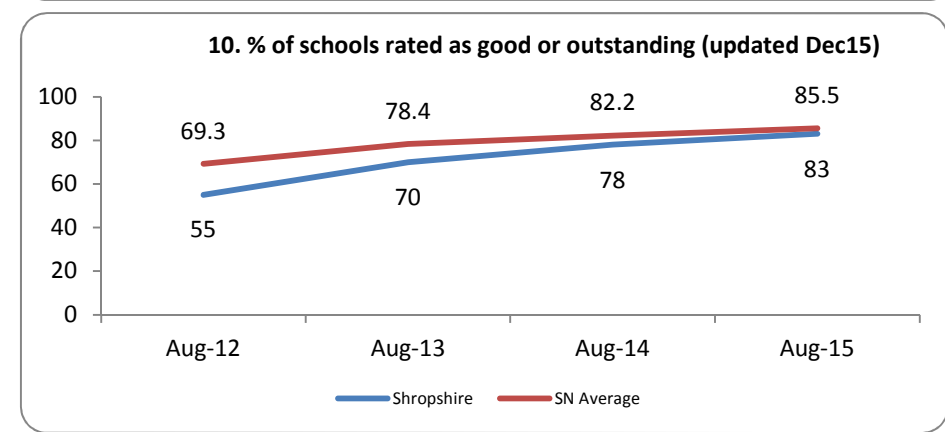
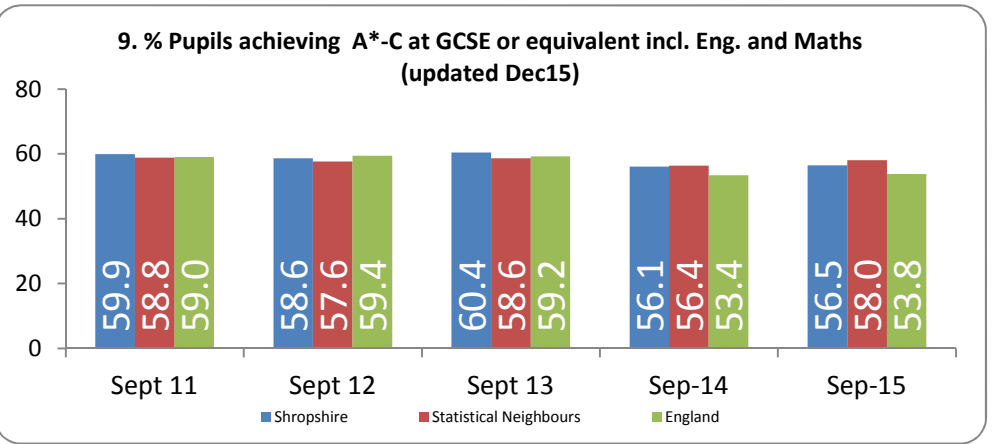
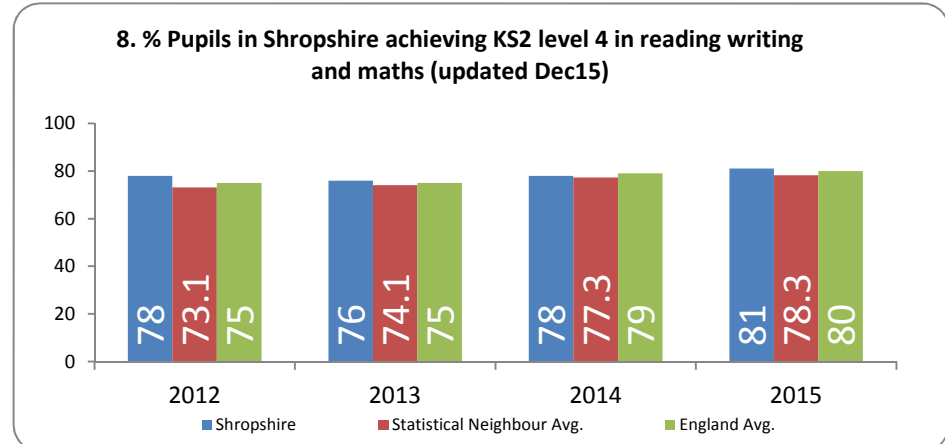
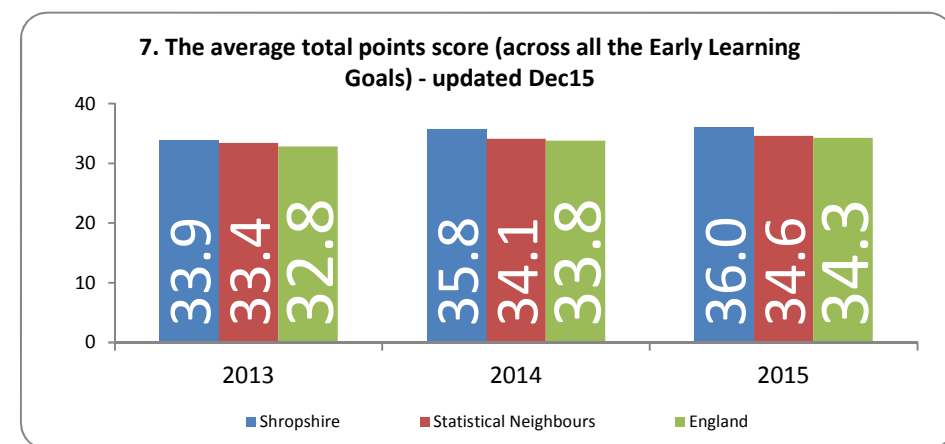
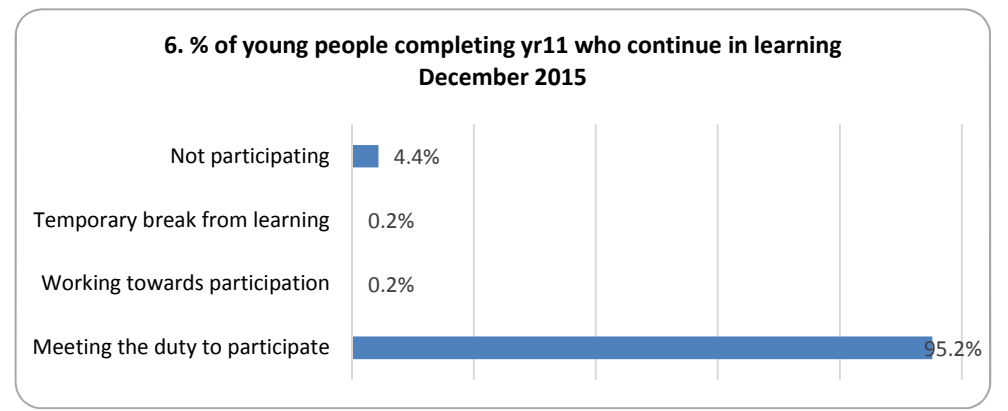
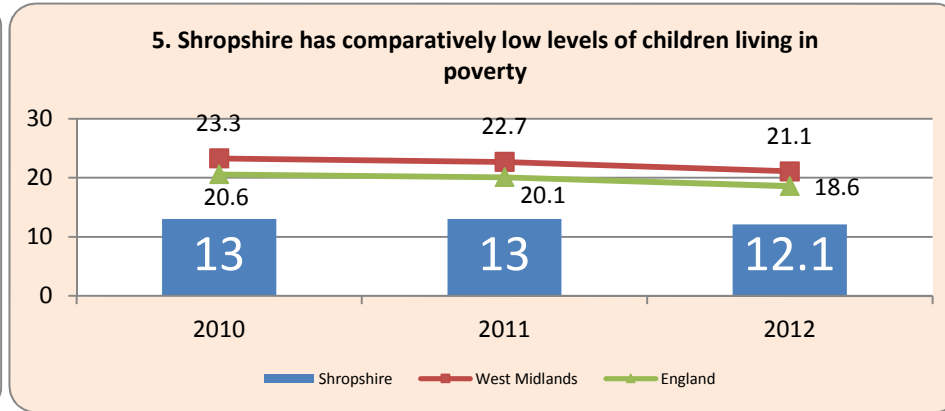
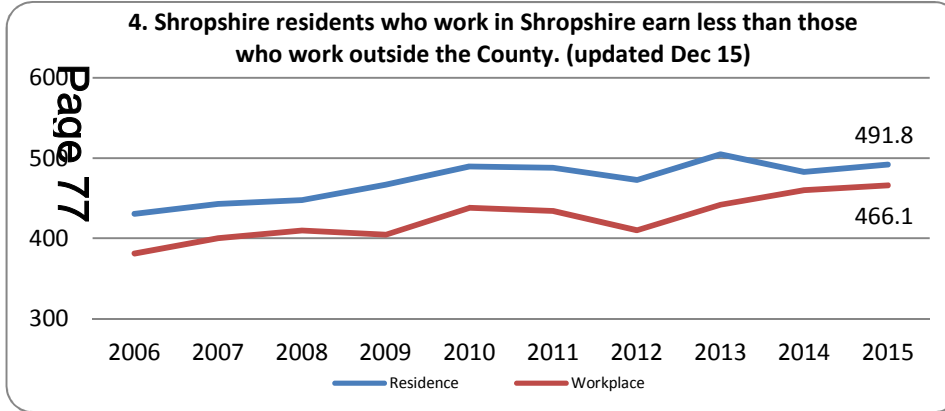
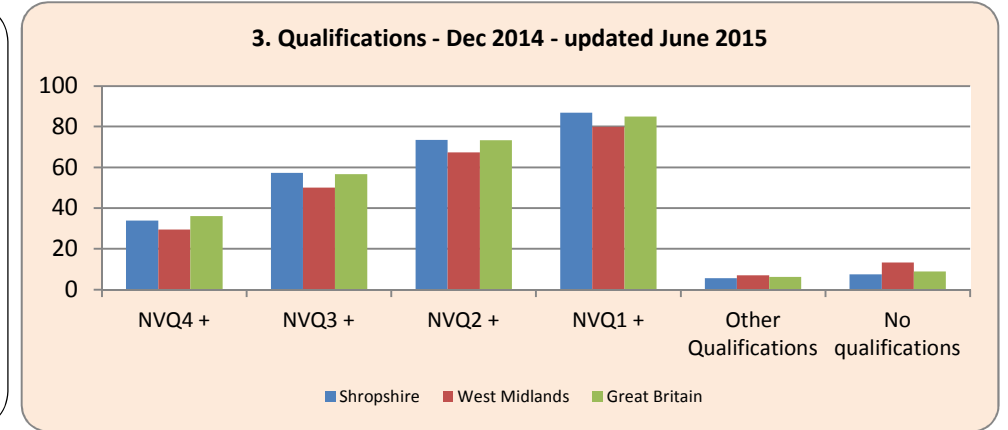
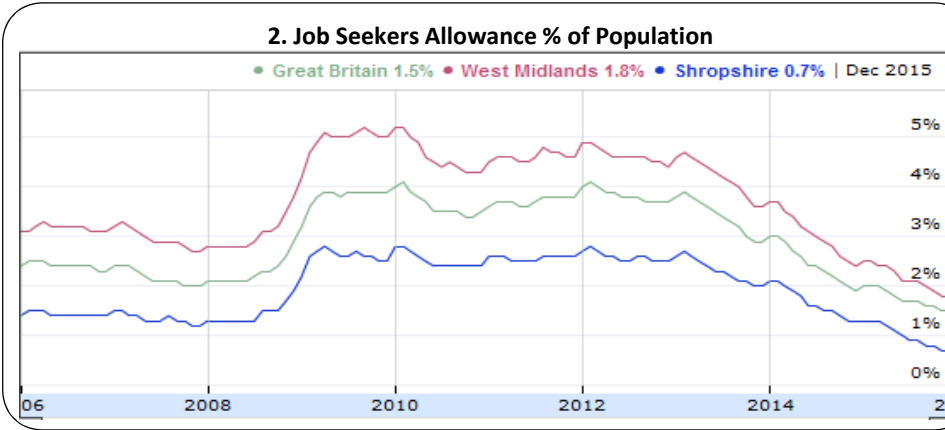
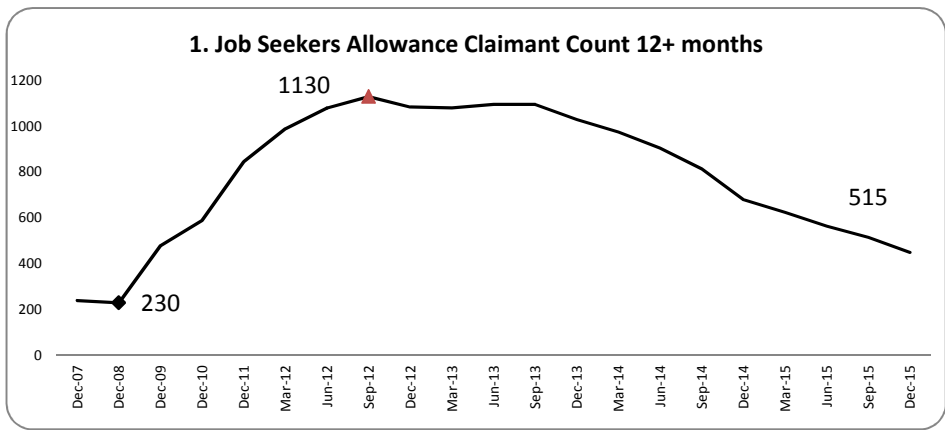
- Details of plans to meet the child's educational needs – information about the school the child is expected to attend; details of plans for supporting the child if a school has not been identified;
- Information about plans to meet the child's health needs, e.g. whether the child requires secondary health care (including mental health and other specialist health care), including details about the CCG acting as "responsible commissioner.";
- Details of any youth justice supervision order that would need to be overseen by youth justice services in the area authority.

Local authorities have a common interest in supporting high standards of corporate parenting for all looked-after children.

When approached for consultation about potential placements, area authorities should be able to offer a professional view about the benefits of a planned placement, the benefits of living in the neighbourhood where the placement is located and the potential for local services to respond appropriately to the needs of the child concerned.

Local authorities could also advise about other sources of information to assist social workers and commissioners in determining whether a distant out of authority placement is the most appropriate for the child concerned (e.g. the Virtual School Head or the Designated Nurse for looked-after children).

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charts for available indicators reported quarterly

charts for available indicators reported less than quarterly

charts for indicators not currently reported/available

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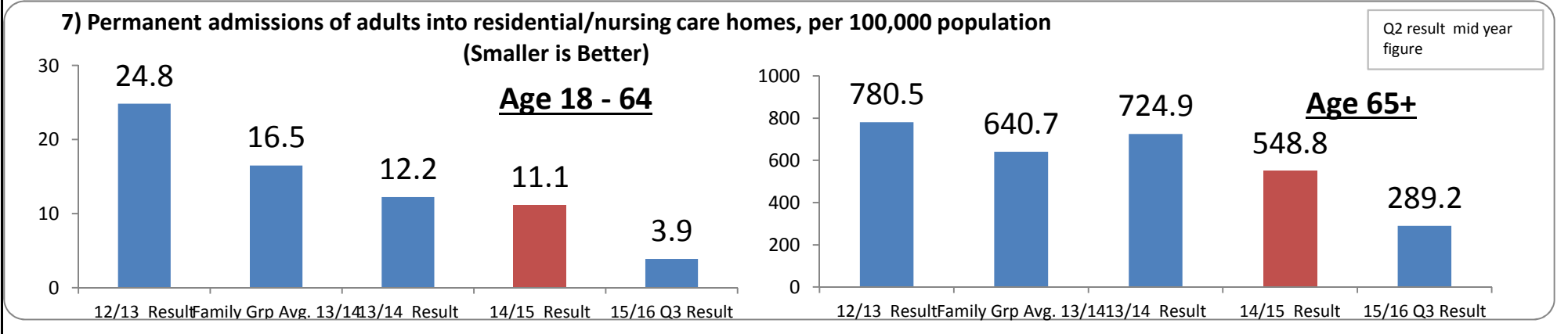
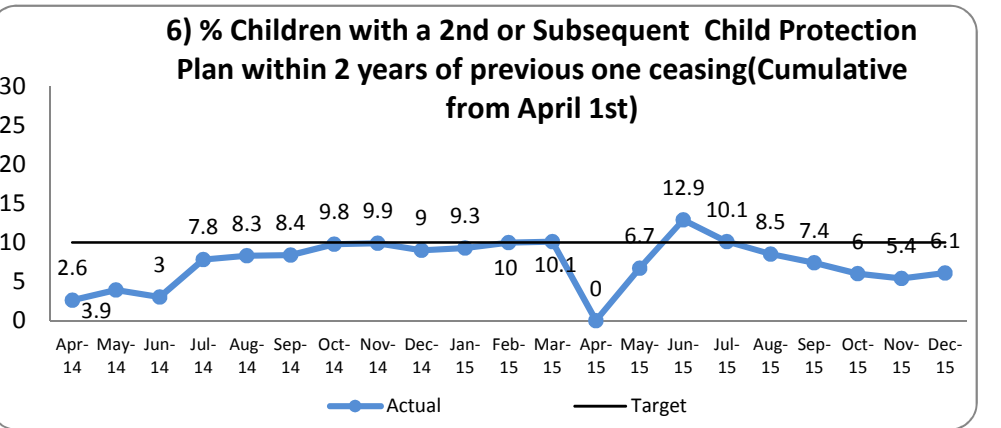
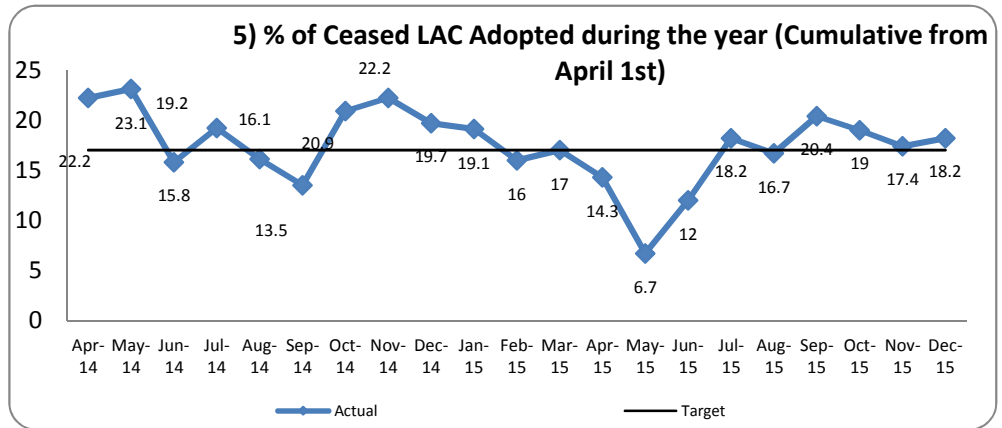
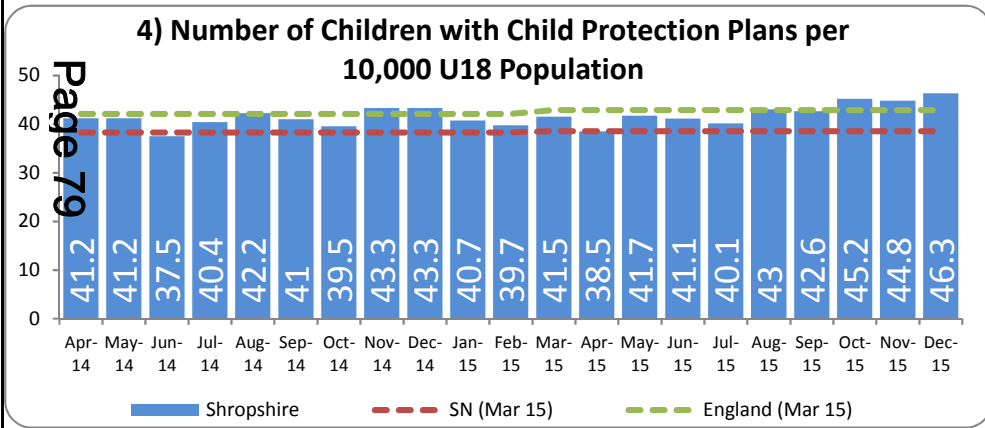
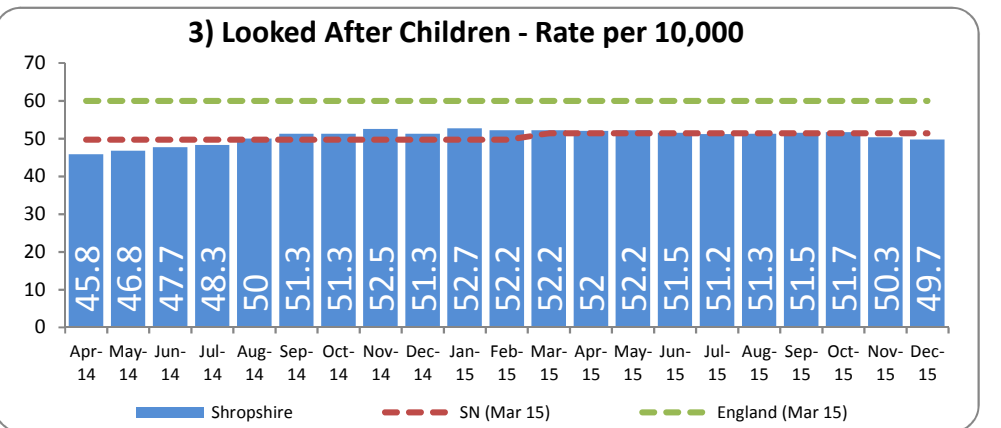
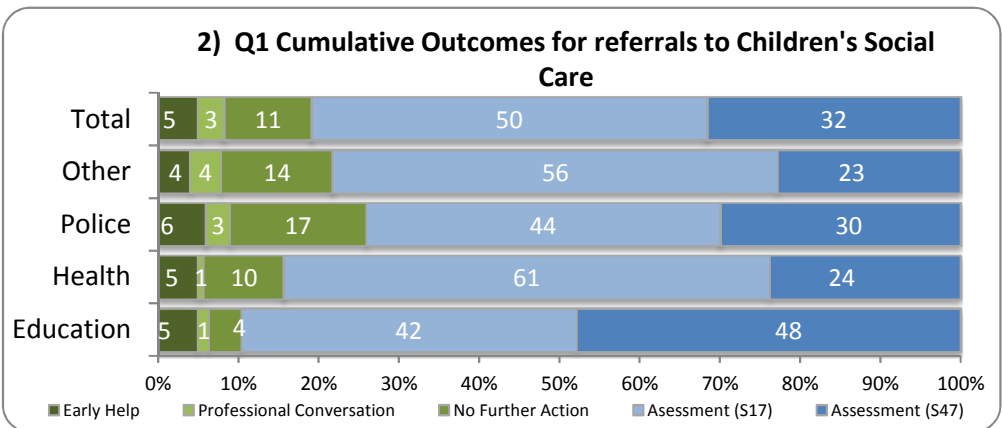
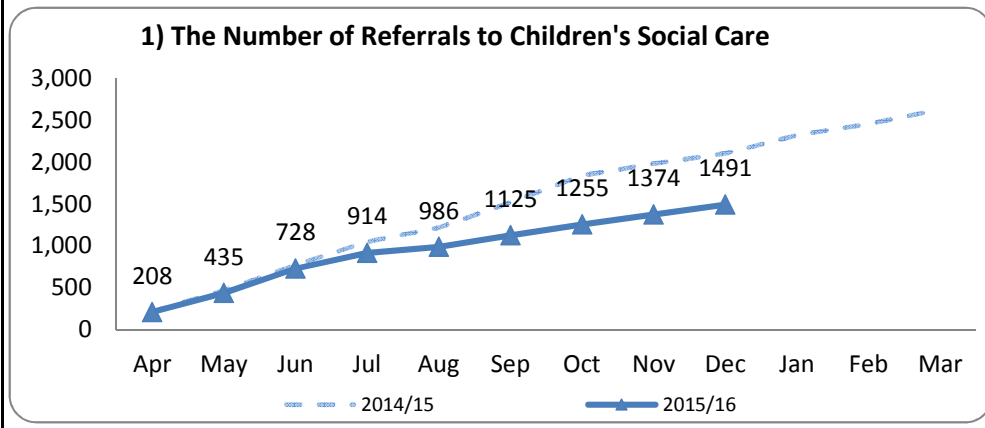


Chart 8 - to be replaced with new measure/s

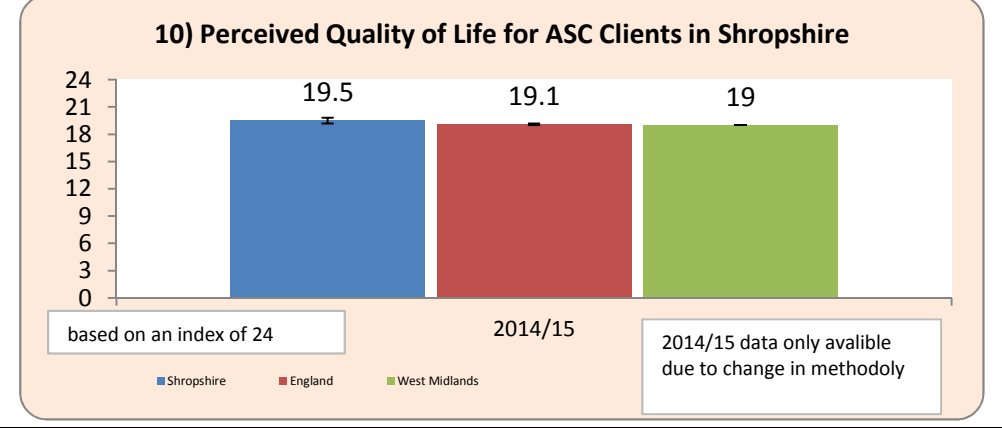
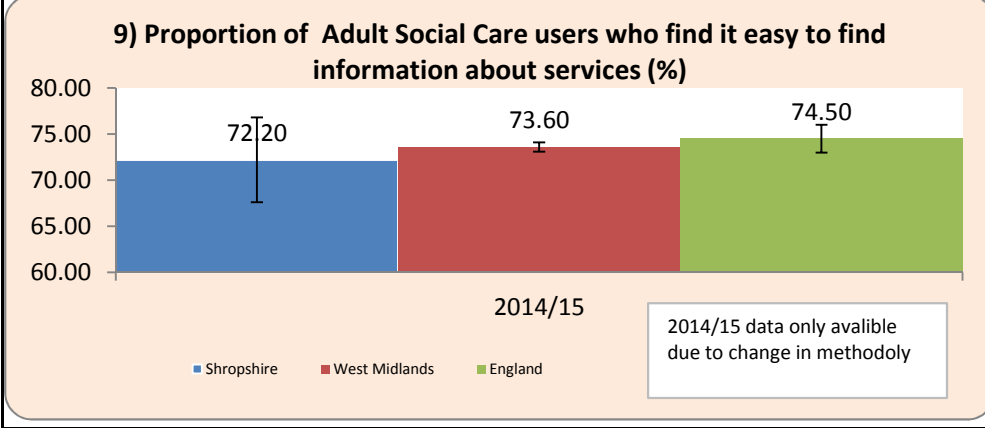


Chart 11 - to be replaced with new measure/s

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Agenda Item 11

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME

DATE	TOPIC	PURPOSE
Wednesday 23 March 2016 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report • CAMHS update • Health Visitor Services • Young Health Champions' Diabetes prevention project • Placement Sufficiency for LAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues
Wednesday 25 May 2016 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report • Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers • Education Performance of disadvantaged Children • Future Shape of Education in Shropshire • CSE Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues <p>Briefing Session at Close of Meeting</p>

Wednesday 20 July 2016 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report • Corporate Parenting • How Shropshire Council will meet the statutory requirements for the provision of swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues
Wednesday 14 September 2016 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report • Impact of Budget Cuts on Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues
Wednesday 14 December 2016 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues
Wednesday 1 February 2017 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues
Wednesday 29 March 2017 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues

To be added: -

Update from College Principals

THE CABINET FORWARD PLAN

This Notice, known as the Cabinet Forward Plan, sets out the Decisions, including Key Decisions, which are likely to be taken during the period covered by the Plan by either Cabinet as a whole or by individual members of the Executive. The Plan is updated each month and regularly amended and at least 28 clear days before a key decision is to be taken and is available from Council Offices, libraries and on the Council's Internet site (www.shropshire.gov.uk). This edition supersedes all previous editions.

Further Information

Cabinet is comprised of the following members: Mr M Pate (Leader); Mr S Charmley (Deputy Leader); Mrs K Calder; Mr L Chapman; Mr S Jones; Mr D Minnery, Mrs C Motley, Mr M Price; Mr S West and Mr M Wood. To view more details, please click on the following link:
<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=130>

A Key Decision is one which is likely to result in income, expenditure or savings of £500,000 or greater, or to have a significant effect, on, two or more Electoral Divisions. In two member divisions i.e. Oswestry and Market Drayton, these are to be treated for the purpose of a key decision as two divisions.

Members of the public are welcome to attend full Cabinet meetings and ask a question and/or make a statement in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules. If you would like further details please email jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 257712.

Members of the public are also welcome to submit a request to address or to ask a question of the Member making the Portfolio Holder decision. Any request should be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive at the address below by no later than 2 clear working days before the proposed Member Session. This is to ensure that the individual member has sufficient time to decide whether or not to hear such persons and if so the arrangements to be made. If you would like further details please telephone 01743 257712 or email jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk.

All Executive including individual member decisions (except in extreme urgency) are subject to call-in and Scrutiny.

Documents submitted for decision will be a formal report, which if public, will be available on this website at least 5 clear working days before the date the decision can be made. If you would like to request such a document, please email jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 257712.

Documents shown are listed at Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.

CABINET FORWARD PLAN FOR 1 MARCH 2016 ONWARDS

DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 16 March 2016

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
16 March 2016	Redesign of Visitor Information Services in North West Shropshire	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	12 January 2016
16 March 2016	Burford and Tenbury Wells Joint Neighbourhood Plan: Designation of Plan Area	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment		Andrew M Evans, Head of Business Growth and Prosperity Tel: 01743 253869 andrew.M.evans@shropshire.gov.uk	18 February 2016
16 March 2016	Shropshire Response to Supporting the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment		Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	18 February 2016

DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 6 April 2016

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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6 April 2016	Working together to create a sustainable future for Shropshire's local services	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Rural Services and Communities		Kate Garner, Locality Commissioning Manager Tel: 07990085506 kate.garner@shropshire.gov.uk	24 February 2016
6 April 2016	Shropshire Council Adult Social Care Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adults	Exempt	Andy Begley, Interim Director of Adult Services andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk	3 March 2016
6 April 2016	Integrated Out of Hours Services	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adults	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	4 February 2016
6 April 2016	Future Social Work Delivery Vehicle	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adults	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	27 January 2016
6 April 2016	Four Rivers Nursing Home Business Case Options	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adults	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	18 February 2016
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 27 April 2016						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to	Date Uploaded onto Plan

					decision maker	
27 April 2016	Changes to opening hours at Shropshire Archives	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	27 January 2016
27 April 2016	Connecting Shropshire - Further Coverage Opportunities	Yes	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy	Exempt	Andrew M Evans, Head of Business Growth and Prosperity Tel: 01743 253869 andrew.M.evans@shropshire.gov.uk	1 October 2015
27 April 2016	Contract award to develop a "Community Centre" that provides community resources in Ellesmere alongside the provision of day time opportunities for adults with learning disabilities, day care for older people and library and information and advice se	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Portfolio Holder for Adults	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	14 January 2016
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 18 May 2016						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

18 May 2016	English Bridge Workshops CAT	Yes	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	18 February 2016
18 May 2016	Disposal of land for residential development and provision of new community hub on land at former Oakland School site and Library site, Bayston Hill	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment	Exempt	Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner South chris.edwards@shropshire.gov.uk	17 November 2015

DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 8 June 2016

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
8 June 2016	Regional Adoption Agency	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People		Tina Russell, Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Tel: 01743 254254 tina.russell@shropshire.gov.uk	24 February 2016

DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 6 July 2016

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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6 July 2016	Improved Swimming Facilities for Shrewsbury	Yes	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	31 July 2014
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 27 July 2016						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 7 September 2016						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 28 September 2016						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
May 2016	Contract award for the provision of day time support activities in the Bridgnorth area for adults with learning disabilities	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	6 January 2016

DECISION MAKER - Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy - Steve Charmley

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Adults - Lee Chapman

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People - David Minnery

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Not before 10th August, 2015	Transport Policy for Children's Services <i>(Item previously included in the Forward Plan under the remit of Cabinet.)</i>	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People		Karen Bradshaw, Director of Childrens Services Tel: 01743 254201 Karen.Bradshaw@shropshire.gov.uk	9 January 2015

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing - Karen Calder

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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15 January 2016	Authority to Adopt and Implement a Policy for Personal Tributes and Memorials on Shared Graves at Longden Road Cemetery, Shrewsbury	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	8 December 2015
Not before 21st December, 2015	Redesign of the Shropshire Registration Service	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing		Professor Rod Thomson Tel: 01743 253934 rod.thomson@shropshire.gov.uk	23 September 2015

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation - Simon Jones

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Rural Services and Communities - Cecilia Motley

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture - Stuart West

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
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DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment - Malcolm Price						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Not before 10th August, 2015	Minor Amendments to the Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment		Andy Begley, Interim Director of Adult Services andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk	28 August 2014
Not before 10th August, 2015	Oakland and Glebe Land, Bayston Hill - Planning Brief	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment		Steph Jackson, Head of Commercial Services Tel: 01743 253862 steph.jackson@shropshire.gov.uk	17 June 2015
DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support - Michael Wood						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

Date of Publication - <Date>

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