



CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

2024-26



Derby City Council

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FOREWORD

As a Council we deliver many services. One of our most important jobs is keeping our children and young people safe; free from risks and harm. When we cannot do this, keeping children and young people living safely with their families, we may have to apply to become their legal guardians. If this happens they become 'looked after', and it is our job as Corporate Parents to make sure that they get the best start in life as possible. This is a responsibility that we take very seriously and we are absolutely committed to delivering the best outcomes that we can for our looked after children and young people and care leavers.

At the heart of this, are our promises to our children in care, which is a pledge that was developed by our Children in Care Council:

1. We will show you how to contact your Social Worker and the people who care for you and what to do if you are worried or need help, including evening and weekends.
2. We will provide you with a safe place to live. We want you to be safe, protected and valued and will support you to keep yourself safe.
3. We will help and support you to participate in opportunities and activities to be happy and healthy, explore interests and find your passions.
4. We will respect you for who you are. We will support you to understand who you are including cultural and religious beliefs, your personal identity and understand your life and your journey.

5. We will help you to go to the GP, Dentist or anything else you may need to keep you happy, healthy and safe.
6. We will support you to get the most from your education or learning and encourage you to reach your goals and achieve your potential by believing in you and supporting you with your future aspirations including the world of work.
7. We will help you to understand all of your rights and invite you to share your views, worries and hopes to help us understand you better and do our best for you.
8. We will ensure your voice is heard in all discussions about you and we will explain any decisions made about you to help you understand and ensure you know why and when meetings are held.
9. We will work with organisations in Derby to ensure we prevent children in care from being unnecessarily criminalised.
10. We will join with you to celebrate your 18th birthday and ensure you are supported into adulthood as an individual.

We have also developed our Diversity and Heritage Pledge for our young people in care. The Diversity and Heritage Pledge ensures we listen to, value and take into account young people's individual needs and background

We are determined to ensure our children and young people in care and our care leavers succeed. As chair of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills I am proud to write this foreword and to endorse this Strategy as it underpins our commitment to Derby's children in care and care leavers.



**Cllr Paul Hezelgrave
(Deputy Leader)**

Cabinet Member for Children,
Young People and Skills

Derby City Council Diversity and Heritage Pledge for Looked After Children

Vision

Derby City Council children services are committed to identifying and seeking out the strengths in each child's family and will value you and your family background. We will work to understand who you are and help you maintain your family connection during your time in care.

To do this we pledge:



We will listen and learn from you.



We will take the time to talk with you and your family to understand your culture and identity.



We will value you and understand your uniqueness. We will make sure that you can celebrate your language, special days and events.



We will ensure the people that are looking after you, give you the care that you need which reflects your unique identity and heritage.



We will develop the confidence of your carers and the adults in your life so they can look after you.

Derby City Council Diversity and Heritage Pledge for Looked After Children

How we will do this:



Talk to you and your family.



Understand who supports you and your family.



Celebrate your special days.



Make sure the people who look after you care for you well.



Talk about the things which make you unique.



VISION AND AMBITION

CORPORATE PARENTING

When a child becomes looked after in Derby, Derby City Council becomes the Corporate Parent.

Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of local authorities, as corporate bodies, and their responsibility to provide the best possible services and support to Looked After Children and Young People in their care.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out 7 Corporate Parenting Principles to achieve the best possible outcomes for Looked after Children and Care Leavers up to the age of 25. The principles are applied throughout the care journey for young people into adulthood. In Derby we strive to provide our children in care and care leavers with the support and stability that any young person would expect.



- To act in the best interest, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people.
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the Local Authority and its relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships, and education or work
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

This strategy aims to ensure that Derby City Council delivers the best outcomes for the children and young people in our care. As a Council we are committed to ensuring that every Looked After Child has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential, and has a safe and positive experience with us as their corporate parent. Our Looked After Children come to us due to a variety of reasons and at every age; this strategy is for all of them.



OUR VISION

We would like our children and young people to have everything that all good parents want for their children. We want them to work with us, along with their parents and carers, in shaping how we manage and organise the planning, resources and services that support and care for them.

We want our children and young people to be happy and healthy, both physically and emotionally, to be safe and protected from harm and exploitation, and to be supported each step of the way to successful independent life as adults.

We want them to achieve their potential, especially at school, and to be involved in the decisions affecting their care and their lives.

Looked after children and young people can face barriers throughout their life, and we have developed some additional ambitions to support our aspirations for them...

- Our children and young people to live with their parents and families within their communities where it is safe to do so, with a commitment to reviewing this at different points.
- To actively and quickly look for permanency and stability where this is not possible.
- For our children and young people to live in Derby, or as close by as is practicable and appropriate.

- To support our young people to 'Stay Put', with their current carers, wherever possible.
- To listen to their voices and seek their views on the services that we provide for them.
- To meet their placement needs, with a range placement options that consider both quality and cost.

We will seek to address the challenges that we face in the sufficiency of carers and placements, and have detailed the actions that we propose to take to address this in our Sufficiency Strategy, which is being updated. The most recent version can however be found at www.derby.gov.uk

To make sure that everyone is taking their Corporate Parenting responsibilities seriously, we make sure that all our plans for the City and the Council include children in care and safeguarding because we are passionate about being caring. These plans are updated every few years and help to focus us and our partners on a shared set of priorities.

For further information on our plan for the city – The Derby Plan, or our Council Plan 2022-2025, please visit our [website](#).

OUR COUNCIL VISION:
“DERBY – A CARING AND SUCCESSFUL CITY AT THE HEART OF THE MIDLANDS, PROUD OF ITS HERITAGE AND AMBITIOUS FOR THE FUTURE”

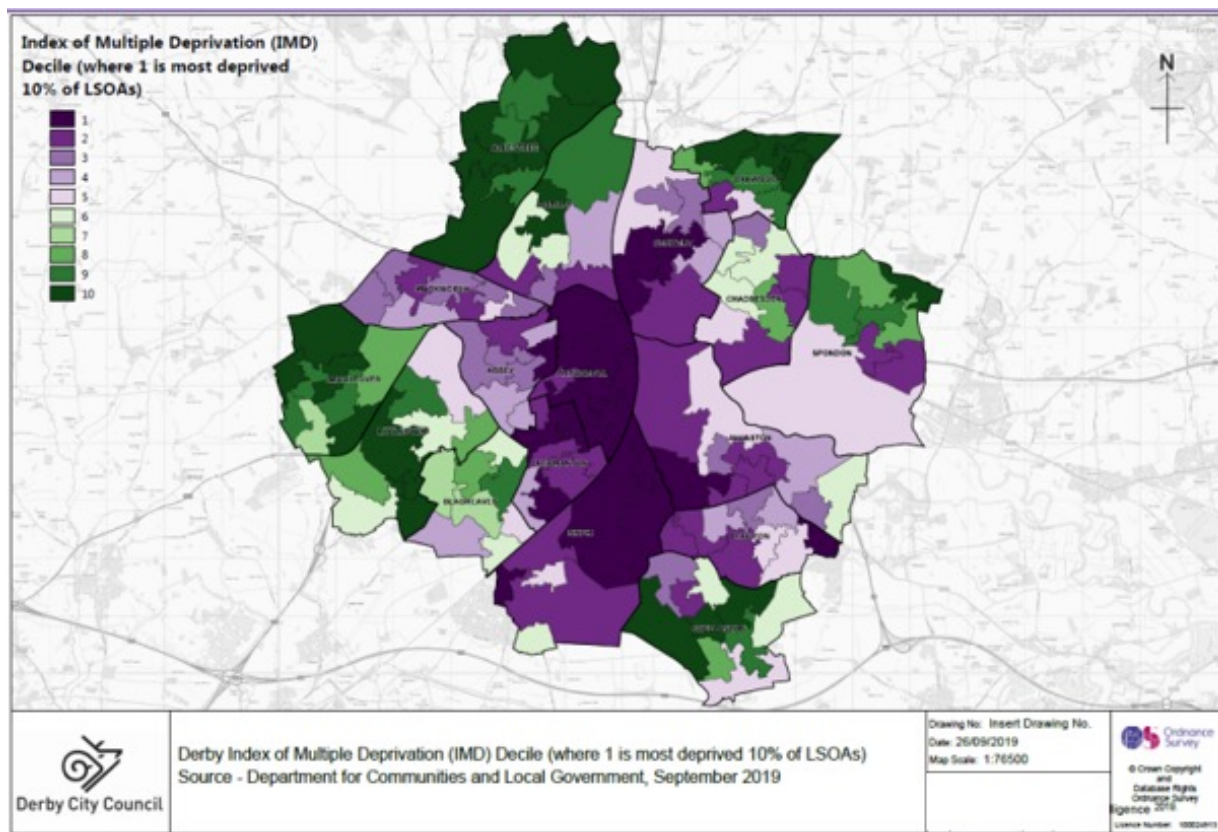


DERBY IN CONTEXT

Derby is a compact city of 30 square miles and is home to 261,400 people from a wide range of backgrounds. Minority ethnic communities now represent approximately 34% of Derby's resident population; which has increased from 25% in 2011. (Source: ONS, Census 2021)

We are a growing city, between the 2011 and 2021 census the population has increased by 5.1%, from 248,800 in 2011. 34% of our population are aged 25 years or under, the number of children aged 5-14 years old increasing by 14% compared to 2011. The 0-4 and 15-24 age groups have decreased in 2021 compared to the 2011. (Source: ONS, Census 2021).

In Derby, we have long been recognised as a multi-cultural city, with our largest ethnic groups at the 2021 census being Pakistani, Other White and Indian. Just over 8% of our population have been resident in the UK for less than 10 years (ONS, Census 2021). There continues to be more children in the city where English is not their first language (DfE, School Census).



We are ranked 67th out of 317 authorities in England in terms of deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation, MHCLG 2019) with some pockets of very high deprivation. 16% of our LSOAs are within the 10% most deprived areas nationally and 34% within the top 20% nationally. We therefore face challenges of inequality, such as life expectancy, which is 11.1 years lower for men and 10.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of the city than the least deprived (PHE, 2018-20).

We have nearly 59,000 children and young people (aged 0-17 years old) living in Derby (ONS, Census 2021). Most of these young people live safely with their families, however, on average we look after between 600 and 650 children and young people each year, at any one time. We have seen this number increase over the last few years, which has also happened nationally. There are many reasons for this, but for us it is important that we continue to review how many children are coming into care, and what their individual needs are.

At the end of March 2023, Derby had 620 children in care, which had decreased from 627 at the end of March 2022. During the year, 2022/23, Derby had 211 children enter care and 225 children exit care. Most children in Derby become looked after due to 'abuse and/or neglect' (59%). Many young people exit care to be reunited with their families (30%); or to live independently (23%).

Whilst they are in care, we aim to keep children and young people in Derby, during 2022/23 62% lived within 20 miles of their home address. Most children in care live with a foster carer (71%).

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

To make sure that we are all focused on the same things, making the best use of our resources and the work that we do together, we are going to concentrate on five shared areas, where we can all make a difference...

OUR FIVE KEY AREAS

1.

**LISTENING TO OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE.**

2.

**MAKING SURE THAT THEY HAVE
GOOD, SAFE PLACES TO LIVE.**

3.

**WORKING WITH OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE SO THEY
ACHIEVE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL
OUTCOMES FOR THEM.**

4.

**MAKING SURE OUR CHILDREN IN
CARE ARE HAPPY AND HEALTHY.**

5.

**SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN IN
CARE INTO THEIR ADULTHOOD LIFE.**

1.

LISTENING TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE.

VOICE AND PARTICIPATION

We will ensure your voice is at the heart of all decisions made about you and that you understand why and when meetings are held.

We recognise it is important to make sure the views, wishes and feelings of our children and young people are listened to, and that they are treated with dignity and respect. Our children and young people should be involved in, and understand, the decisions made about their lives. They should be supported to understand how to get the information, advice and support they need, and how to make a complaint if they are not happy.

CHILDRENS PARTICIPATION OFFICER/ OUR VOICE OUR SUCCESS

We value young people having their say, we have a Participation Officer to facilitate this and ensure children in care have the opportunity to give their views and ensure their feedback is at the heart of the Local Authority decision making and shape the services which support them.

We have a group called Our Voice, Our Success who meet regularly to have their say along with other projects and consultations which they are able to get involved with. The Participation Officer and Our Voice, Our Success have:

- Developed a Schools Cluster Group to ensure all children in care are able to participate in Local Authority Consultation
- Collaborated with the NHS to develop a Health Assessment animation to inform children in care about the appointments they may have
- Formed a Young Recruiters group who have received recruitment training and have the opportunity to be part of interview panels across services which support them
- Increased participation with children and young people in Derby City Residential Homes ensuring they are able to participate in consultation in a flexible way
- Been involved in the Newly Qualified Social Worker Training developing information to share with Newly Qualified Social workers to support them in their work with children in care and ensure they are informed on the views of children in care
- Renamed the previous 'Children in Care Council' to the new Our Voice, Our Success chosen by children in care.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT:

- Our Voice, Our Success will complete an annual survey to hear about the views and feelings of other children in care, which will inform the work of our Corporate Parenting Committee and other key groups.
- We want to expand our participation with children in care so that it becomes more representative of all people in care. Where young people can't attend meetings, we continue to develop processes to hold meetings with young people in schools and our residential children's homes so that more young people can be involved alongside other strands to capture the differing interests of young people.
- To develop a new virtual network and develop a system that allows those young people that will be living outside of the city to have their say.
- More Young people in care and Care Leavers to be trained in the recruitment of staff. To then enable them to be involved in the recruitment process and shape those who are employed to work within Children's Services.
- To continue to ensure meaningful participation of young people in the Corporate Parenting Committee and to extend this offer to the Care Leavers Forum.
- Update and Review the Local Authority Pledge ensuring it is inclusive of all requirements of our young people and those working within the Local Authority work to this.



CHILDRENS RIGHTS SERVICE

Our Children's Rights Service is commissioned to Change, Grow and Live. The Childrens Rights Services include:

- Independent Visitor Services. Young people in care who live at distance are given priority.
- Advocacy service for our children and young people in care and care leavers. Young people are supported with advocacy for various reasons including attendance at review meetings, placement issues, court proceedings, education and leaving care
- Independent advocacy for our children that are privately fostered.
- Advocacy to assist young people to get their views heard at child protection conferences. All young people are offered advocacy support at their initial child protection conference.
- A monthly surgery also takes place at each of the internal residential care homes to ensure young people in care can speak to and seek advice from an advocate when they need.

The Childrens Rights Service continues to promote services for all our children in care, building good partnerships with social workers, independent reviewing officers and a strong presence in all our children's homes.

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

In Derby, we are proud to have a strong Corporate Parenting Committee, which meets every three months and is chaired by our Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The committee includes membership from across the council and external partners which include health, police and housing.

The main purpose of the Committee is to make sure we are seeking to deliver the best services for our children and young people in care.

Our children in care are represented on the Corporate Parenting Committee, through representative members of the Children in Care Council (CICC) attending each meeting; and the first item of each meeting is dedicated to them, this ensures their voice is heard at the beginning of each meeting. Each committee meeting is structured to cover an important overarching theme. The themes include; Safety, Accommodation, Education and Health.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

- Continue to ensure our children in care have a strong voice in Corporate Parenting Committee
- Continue to ensure all our young people in care have access to the Independent Childrens Rights Service and everyone is offered advocacy services.

MY LIFE MY JOURNEY (MLMJ)



My Life My Journey (MLMJ) is a new approach devised and adopted by Derby to ensure all children we work with know and contribute to their life stories in language, signs and symbols that they understand. Therefore, we intend to reform direct work to include not only children and young people's wishes and feelings, but ensuring they understand their own stories. This approach is intended to celebrate their best achievements as well as sensitively and age-appropriately allow them to understand their maybe not-so-happy memories. My Life, My Journey will contribute, feed into, and support Life Story Work or for some children and young people to make sure they have a record of their story of that moment in time.

My Life, My Journey is Derby City Council's commitment to enhance our workers practice to equip them with skills and techniques to ensure all our contacts with children and young people, and their families are meaningful. My Life My Journey is an approach that recognises that our children and young people's views and experiences are of utmost importance to our work with them, and their participation is what we want to shape our work with their families. Derby City Council will capture our children and young people's journeys with their views, wishes, and feelings in their words, signs, emojis, and with their chosen method of communication, even if

a child is non-verbal/ pre-verbal, they still have something to say either through their preferred communication tools, observation or advocated by someone that knows them well.

Our Children and young people who were consulted on My Life, My Journey, created the name My Life, My Journey, and all wanted to have the opportunity to capture their journey, through the Voice of the Child Tools, photographs, activities, and to know more about the social worker/practitioner talking to them. Therefore, My Life, My Journey is written to support Social Workers/ Practitioners (Early Help, Child Care, Youth Justice Service, and any Staff who work directly with children) in ensuring the child's voice is placed at the heart of any planning, decision making, and service delivery. This approach has been created and developed by practitioners, co-produced by children and young people, and agreed by our Leadership Team.



2.

MAKING SURE THAT THEY HAVE GOOD, SAFE PLACES TO LIVE.

Within our Services, we ensure that the needs of our children and young people are met through providing appropriate care and support. We strive to give our children and young people a safe, and secure home and a welcoming environment.

PERMANENCE

We are committed to ensuring children have a permanent and stable place to live for the remainder of their childhood or as long as they need this.

Our permanence panel was launched in September 2019 to ensure timely permanence decisions are made for children in long term care. The panel makes permanence decisions for children living in foster care with independent fostering agencies and decisions on plans for Special Guardianship Orders to progress for children living with foster carers or family members/connected persons and young people whose carers are offering Staying Put for them at age 18.

Children living with Derby City foster carers have permanence decisions made for them with a recommendation from Derby City Fostering Panel and a decision from the Agency Decision Maker.

There are also ongoing reviews of children's care plans to enable safe and sustainable reunification to family at the right time for the child and their family and permanence being achieved for some children via special guardianship orders to foster carer.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

We will continue to make timely decisions for permanence.

We will continue to develop support services to families to support safe reunifications.

PLACEMENT STABILITY

In 2023 we developed and implemented a strength based Enhanced Care Planning approach to ensure our social work teams work closely with our internal residential and fostering services and external placement providers to ensure support is wrapped around carers and children as soon as we see any risk of a placement becoming unstable for a child. This helps to make carers and children feel as secure as possible and ensure that we help to avoid unnecessary placement breakdowns.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

We will continue to work with care and placement providers to improve placement stability for children, through provider engagement events and ensuring that the Enhanced Care Planning Meeting process is utilised effectively where needed.

SPECIALIST MIGRATION WORK

Within the Children in Care service, we have a Specialist Migration Team who are responsible for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in care and undertake brief enquiries at point of referral as well as progressing referrals from the National Transfer Scheme and undertaking age assessments where required.

We also work with children to ensure their immigration needs are met. The service has progressed (within statutory timescale's) applications for European Union Settled Status for children who require this and we have developed a Best Interests Panel to make recommendations in regard to a child's need for application for British Nationality, with Head of Service approval for progressing this as Agency Decision Maker. Legal advice to the panel is provided by a Specialist Immigration Lawyer.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

To continue to ensure children with immigration needs have timely reviews of those needs and timely progression of actions needed to legally secure their future in the UK.



CONCORDAT

Concordat is an agreement across the children and young people's partnership in Derby to join up work under a singular vision to avoid unnecessary criminalisation of children in care. This has led to the development of a protocol including a 10-point child in care checklist to ensure children in care are not unnecessarily criminalised, alternative ways of dealing with behaviour are explored and has been developed between our residential children services, fostering services, the Crown Prosecution Service, Derbyshire Constabulary and our Youth Justice Service.

The protocol is used for all children in care but has particular focus for those children living in Derby City Council residential homes and is supported by an action plan and training plan for practitioners across the broader children's partnership. Partners meet on a quarterly basis to review the action plan and ensure appropriate actions are taken to support children living in care to avoid unnecessary criminalization. This has included trauma informed training for frontline practitioners, access to youth activities for children and more recently the linking of Youth Justice Prevention Workers with our internal residential homes in the city to develop relationships with internal residential staff and children.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

Review and relaunch the Concordat protocol in 2024.

Refresh the training offer and podcast for partnership staff throughout 2024.

Update the Concordat action plan.

RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES

In Derby we have in house residential provision as well as a specialist home for young people with additional needs. We understand that for some young people, coming into care can be a traumatic and an anxious time for them. We recognise that a child or young person will thrive when provided with a stable, nurturing environment to live in.

As a Service, we ensure that the presenting needs and risks identified for a child or young person are considered against each young person already living in the Home prior to them coming to live with us.

Staff within our Homes are encouraged to develop strong working relationship with the children and young people that they care for. This in turn enables them to have a good understanding of their likes, dislikes, triggers, risks, concerns and strengths, as well as protecting them from harm and provide them with stability and security.

We are committed to ensuring that all our children and young people experience stable relationships whilst in our care, with their needs identified and responded to.

We want the best outcomes for all our children and young people, which means supporting, inspiring and developing their independence. We are aspirational for all our children and young people, with a network of support to enable them to reach their full potential in life.

Our staff undertake key areas of learning that are fundamental to their role, ensuring that they can offer the best possible care and support going forward.

All the Homes work closely with their children and young people, listening to their views, wishes and feelings in ensuring that realistic goals are set and clear, with defined outcomes.

Learning is taken from what professionals, children and young people tell us, and this is used to shape the services that we deliver. We are regularly visited by a Regulation 44 Visitor who also informs us also about what children and young people and professionals are saying about the care and support that we provide.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

We will continue to work with the wider social care services to ensure that we provide the best possible care and support that we can to our children and young people.

We are developing a quality assurance framework that will also inform how we are doing across our Residential Homes, which will help shape future service delivery.



FOSTERING SERVICES

Derby City Council Fostering Service works hard to recruit local foster carers, who can look after our children in local foster placements. This enables us to offer looked after children the chance where possible to grow up in a loving and stable family home. In recent years the Service has developed to increase the number of foster placements that can be offered in and around Derby, reducing the reliance on external providers. In relation to this, Derby is proud of the creation of our family and friends team, who assess, train and support kinship foster carers to be able to look after for children within their extended families.

The fostering Service provide a growing number of short term, long term, emergency, and respite foster placements. It is also continuing to develop specialist schemes to increase the choice of homes available that better meet children's needs. These currently include the Fostering Plus scheme which provides foster placements to young people currently living in residential care; the short breaks scheme offering regular respite placements to children with disabilities; the Parent and Child scheme providing local placements to parents and their children enabling them to remain together; and the Supported Lodgings scheme which offers older young people (aged 16-21) the chance to live in a family environment.

We offer our carers opportunity to receive additional fostering allowances as foster carers gain the experience, knowledge and skills, allowing them to care for more complex children.

There is access to comprehensive training programme, as well as several support groups, regular events and activities for foster carers and the children who live with them, to enjoy together.

Derby City Council are a foster friendly employer which means we encourage employees to consider part time fostering alongside their working roles.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

The children's placements team works within Commissioning to support finding safe placements for our children, working with our fostering and residential teams and other agencies to meet the needs of each individual child or young person. These placements could be a foster carer or a residential Children's home. We have successfully placed more of our young people with our own foster carers through the close work with our foster team.

We have also placed more young people within a 20-mile radius of Derby City, meaning better connection to our social care teams and other agencies.

We recently successfully worked with an agency on our smaller children's home project, the first one has opened, and the young person has been successfully placed in this home with 24/7 support and care from the agency.

Derby City continues to work as part of a regional agreement with D2N2 (Derby City, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council) to ensure we work in the same way with the same rules to find good quality agencies and providers to offer placements that we cannot offer with our internal services.



SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

We have developed a diverse range of options which helps to ensure young people move into the most suitable accommodation this includes, supported accommodation, their own tenancy, direct matches, staying close, staying put, shared lives, UASC project, supported lodgings, YMCA flats and support for young people to remain where they live if they have a local area connection outside of Derby City. We have also developed strong partnerships with our Youth Justice Service and Probation and Resettlement Officer to improve transitions from custody (STAR Project).

We have also been successful in a bid for funding from the DFE to launch a Staying Close project which will provide support to existing transitions properties we have (currently 6 but expanding to 10) to support 16 & 17 year olds who are residential care experienced with additional needs which may limit their access to suitable and sustainable accommodation and make a successful transition to adulthood and their own tenancy. The supported accommodation provided by the transition properties has also needed to be registered under the Supported Accommodation Regulations (England) 2023. The Staying Close funding has enabled us to recruit a trauma informed social worker and 2 children's practitioners for transitions and recruitment to these posts is currently taking place.

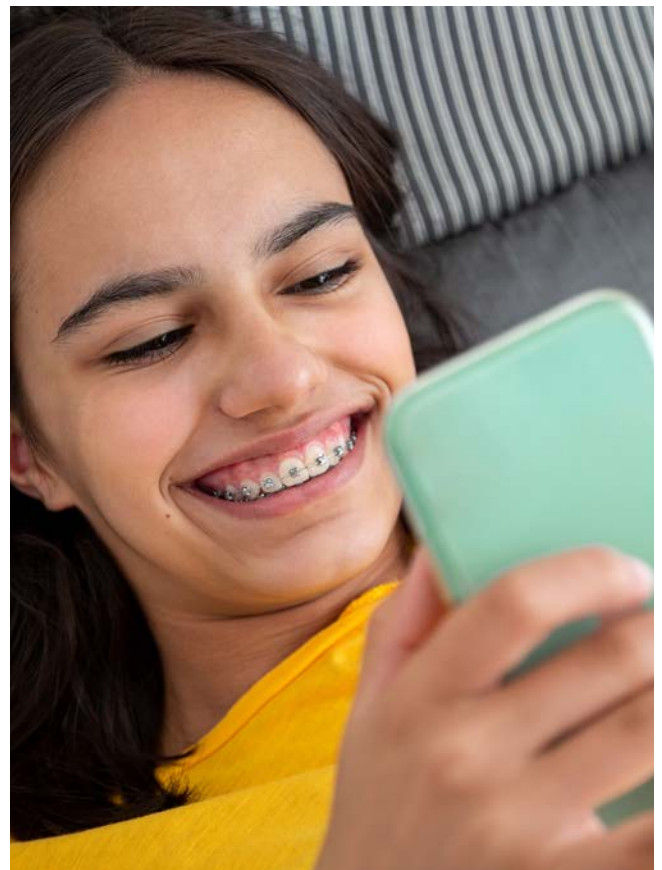
We have also been successful in a bid for funding from DHLUC to recruit a Homelessness Prevention Personal Advisor who has been in post since July 2021, who supports our Personal Advisors with advice, guidance and liaison with housing authorities to minimise the risk of eviction and or homelessness for care experienced young people. There are also 3 UASC properties providing 9 homes to UASC post 18 who are waiting for their asylum decision.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

We are working on another project with D2N2 and the Integrated Care Board (Health) to buy and open 4 specialist Childrens homes, one in each area with a really good health and education offer. This project should be in place by March 2025.

Derby City is also the lead for the D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework (16 -18 year olds and care leavers up to 21 years) this ensures good, safe accommodation for young people to support with moving into Adulthood.

The work over the next 3 years for commissioning will be to ensure we increase the quality offer from our providers, work with our local providers to keep placements close to Derby City and increase the use of internal offers.



3.

WORKING WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SO THEY ACHIEVE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR THEM.

Working with our children and young people so they achieve the best educational outcomes for them.

We will support you to get the most from your education and encourage you to reach all your goals and achieve your potential.

Under the direction of our Virtual Head Teacher, the Virtual School exists to make sure the highest level of support and challenge to all those involved in the education of looked after children, closing the gap in education outcomes with their peers.

The Virtual School works to promote learning; celebrate achievements and successes; and encourage wider participation in other activities.

- The Virtual School has in place an attendance and exclusion monitoring system to improve attendance through a company called Welfare Call. This company contacts schools each day and records attendance for each pupil.
- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are monitored, and quality assured on a weekly basis. In Derby the PEP is completed electronically. We have an aim that 95% of PEPs are completed in a timely manner. Schools, social workers, foster carers and pupils meet at least three times a year to talk about how the education provision is going and complete the PEP.

- Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding is distributed to schools according to the needs of the pupils. At the PEP meeting costed targets are agreed. These targets are quality assured by the Virtual School and PP+ monies sent to schools.

What we have done so far and will continue to do:

The Virtual School will provide additional targeted pupil support to improve educational outcomes through:

- Educational Psychology staff to support emotional health and wellbeing.
- One to one teaching support for our Year 6 pupils so they make better progress in their SATs.
- Providing additional online learning for 16 pupils in GCSE maths.
- Offering specialist speech and language teacher support to 6 primary school pupils.
- Partnering with 5 schools to employ teaching assistants to support children with a social worker in their learning.
- Creative mentoring support for around 20 young people through the arts.
- Engagement support for 10 young people through mentoring.
- Specialist teacher supporting children in residential settings with their education.
- Facilitating widening participation events at the University of Derby for 20 pupils to raise awareness of Higher Education and going to university.

- Running enrichment programmes, such as, cookery school, sewing club and the Virtual School Festival to allow children to learn new creative skills.
- Encouraging reading by providing access to educational materials to all pupils and providing the Storytime magazine to primary age pupils.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

- Continue to support better educational outcomes across all Key Stages.
- Work with providers of education to increase the opportunities for pupils to access vocational/ practical education.
- Encourage good attendance at school.
- Work with schools to reduce exclusions and suspensions.
- Offer training and development opportunities so that the needs of young people can be better understood by adults.
- Additional monies have been given to the Virtual School for young people aged 16 years and over. We will look to use this money to support young people to access post 16 learning opportunities.
- Working with the Derby Cultural Education Partnership we will look to expand the range of creative opportunities which young people can get involved in.
- Work with colleagues to create employment pathways for care experienced young people.



4.

MAKING SURE OUR CHILDREN IN CARE ARE HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Children in care often have greater health needs than their peers, and may have difficulties accessing health care services. The health of our children in care is overseen by Community Paediatricians and Specialist Nurses.



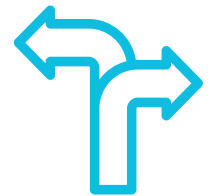
Help you to be emotionally healthy



Help you keep physically well



Help you to eat healthily



Support you to make healthy lifestyle choices

What the Health Team do to help you become a happy and healthy child and young person



Teach you about keeping your teeth healthy and ensuring you see the dentist



Listen to you and act on what you tell us



Support you to talk to professionals or we can do this on your behalf



Check how healthy you are when you come into care and throughout your time in care



What we have done so far and will continue to do:

- Improved the environment at Sinfon Health Centre to be more child focused
- Completed more training to have more skills to care for you and advise your carers
- Re-designed your leaving care health summary with young people
- We continue to make sure when you leave care you have a copy and explain why this is important to you as you become an adult
- Introduced 'My health passport' which is a child held health record so you can take notes about your own health appointments
- Created some animated clips to explain what a health assessment is:
- Teenager video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTldMJ4KNn0>
- Younger child video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTMbEk_tmbo
- Asked young people in care what they think, when we have made any changes within our services

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

- We plan to develop a leaving care health summary for those with additional needs or those who do not speak English as their first language
- We aim to keep the doctors and nurses up to date with skills and knowledge about your health needs, so we can support you now and in the future
- Our babies are also going to receive some special sessions for infant massage, which helps them feel settled and cared for
- Establish a regular way to update you on new health issues or interesting information

EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing service offers specialist, trauma informed 'Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children in Care, UASC, Children and Young People who are Adopted, Care Leavers, and Children on Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) The aim and vision of the service is to support and scaffold local services to enhance and develop the care environment that is provided for children, through the development of therapeutic parenting and trauma informed practice. Also, to provide tailored direct interventions for the carers, social workers and other professionals involved with children in their care, as well as providing therapeutic direct support for children, alongside therapeutic parenting support

Children referred for this support will have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and will therefore benefit from trauma informed practitioners, who understand how to work with them most effectively. Some children and young people will also have additional needs such as Autism or Learning Disabilities.

What we have done so far and will continue to do:

- Attachment-focused Group work for carers offering a therapeutic intervention for carers of children presenting with complex emotional needs, which focuses around the individual needs of referred children.
- WRAP Service which offers intensive, wrap around support for children in their placements with their carers (up to 12-18 months), focusing on placement transitions.

- Consultations - The Service provides consultation and advice with Social Workers, Carers and other professionals working with Children in Care (including education) and significant others and where appropriate family members, contributing to joint collaborative assessment, interventions and care planning.
- Longer term trauma and attachment based therapeutic work involving children and young people, their carers and the professional networks supporting them (up to 12 months).
- A series of up to 6 Consultation sessions to support professionals in developing their trauma informed and therapeutic parenting approach, or in delivering prescribed work or set interventions.
- Complex case work where risk/need is high and circumstances are unstable involving children and young people, their carers and the professional networks supporting them (up to 12 months).

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

The current contract has been extended for another year until August 2024 with a potential final extension taking us up to August 2025. The Service has moved to New premises in Derbyshire with easy access using public transport. A Derby City local base is also being explored.

We will feed into the Prioritisation Panel where referrals are discussed and we make a consistently high level of referrals in, with our Social Care Teams having a good understanding of the offer and providing timely updates.

5. SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN IN CARE INTO THEIR ADULTHOOD LIFE.



The Leaving Care Service continues to keep co production and participation at the centre of its service delivery. We have supported the development of our Care Leavers forum which is self-organised to enable care leavers to meet regularly, feedback their views on the service, suggest improvements etc and there is a direct line of sight with senior managers. We have held an annual celebration event, a YMCA community meal that care experienced young people prepared and provided to the community and the forum has engaged in co production of the care leavers offer, the YMCA flats, and developed a warm pack of goods for care experienced young people to consider how they can lower their energy bills. There has been an end of summer meal which care experienced young people enjoyed together, and the forum has been involved in providing feedback and engaging in the decoration and furnishing of a home for a child in our care and choosing the name of the home in phase one of our small homes project, as well as supporting health colleagues with interviews for a Trauma Navigator who will support Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

For more information, see our website [Leaving care offer](#)

WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

- Continue to involve the care leavers forum in co-production activities.
- Develop a range of engagement events and activities for care experienced young people to participate in.
- Organise the celebration event for 2024.
- Review the care leavers offer in early 2024 with the forum.

CORPORATE GRANDPARENTS

We are working with care leavers who have babies and seeing our role differently, with a view to doing everything in our power to enable them to parent but equally having a clear bottom line where decisions are made as early but as fairly as possible.

We have an 'offer' now which includes a Pre-birth protocol which allows us to intervene earlier (16 weeks). We have a specialist family practitioner who has a role to work with parents of higher vulnerability including care leavers. There is also a range of things they will deliver to ensure the birthing experience is better. We have also commissioned Connected Peri-natal support who provide community peer mentors and birthing partners. We have also given permissions to use family and friends' placements more. Freedom to be creative to give people the best chance without compromising timely permanence.

PLEDGES FROM COUNCIL DIRECTORATES

CORPORATE RESOURCES

- Chief Executive to attend Corporate Parenting Committee at least once a year
- Support and coordinate work experience and apprenticeships for children in care and care leavers across the Council
- Promote achievements of children in care/care leavers
- Promote corporate parenting and wider interests of children in care/care leavers opportunities amongst partners
- Continue to evaluate the impact of Council intervention
- Continue to support Children's services that support children in care/care leavers improve their outcomes.

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

- Work experience within Communities and Place. The work will be office admin or observing front line operations
- Offer to continue to provide opportunities through Derby Live
- Provide free tickets to pantomime
- Continue to provide a recreation card to 16-18 year olds to use leisure facilities.

PEOPLES SERVICES

- Service Director to offer Shadowing
- Work experience in our residential unit for young people with additional needs.
- Office/reception work experience in our IDCS Service– offer taster days to gain experience in basic office/admin duties
- Adult Social Care to provide those looked after children in their teens who express an interest with a short work experience opportunity in a residential care setting.

DERBY HOMES

- Work with colleagues to identify how we can better engage with children in care and care leavers to raise their interest in undertaking work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships with Derby Homes. Derby Homes will offer a guaranteed interview for an apprenticeship to any young person in care that applies
- To provide a consistent and co-ordinated response to care leavers, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), who are in need of accommodation and tenancy related support through a jointly agreed protocol.

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on **01332 640000** or **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਥੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: **01332 640000** ਜਾਂ **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku. Prosimy o kontakt: **01332 640000** lub **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Slovak

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Prosím, kontaktujte nás na tel. č.: **01332 640000** alebo na stránke **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم **01332 640000** یا **derby.gov.uk/signing-service** پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں



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