



Looked After Children

As 'corporate parents', the County Council, officers and practitioners from across a range of agencies and services are responsible and accountable for the care, well-being and future prospects of children and young people in care.

- The number of Looked After Children (LAC) has increased over the last 3 years; by 11% between 2009/10 (574) and 2010/11 (636); by 7% between 2008/09 (536) and 2009/10; and by 11% between 2007/08 (482) and 2008/09.
- The rate of LAC per 10,000 population is highest in Nuneaton & Bedworth, and increased from 167 at 31st March 2010 to 197 at 31st March 2011.
- The majority of children who have started to be looked after over the last three years have been aged between 10 and 15 years. However, over the last four years, there has been an increase in the number of children under the age of 1 who are being accommodated, up from 12.2% during 2007/8 to 17.2% during 2010/11. There has also been an increase this year in the number of young people aged 16-17 starting to be looked after, up from 8.5% in 2009/10 to 19.7% in 2010/11.
- The majority of looked after children have a main need category of 'abuse & neglect'. However, it is worth noting that the number of children with a main need of 'absent parenting' has increased in line with the overall increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Warwickshire, up from 66 in 2009/10 to 87 in 2010/11.
- Warwickshire had a total of 60 children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31st March 2011, who were eligible to sit their Key Stage 4 exams in 2010/11. Of these, 14% achieved the target level attainment of five or more GCSEs at Grade A*-C including Maths and English. This is significantly lower than the GCSE attainment of all children in Warwickshire, which sits at 60.5%.
- There were 54 children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31st March 2011 who completed Year 11 during the 2009/10 academic year. For 79.6% of these children their post 16 destinations were positive. 44.4% continued in full-time education, 1.9% were in full-time training, 33.3% were in part-time employment, education or training, whilst 20.4% were unemployed. Whilst this figure is higher than the previous year, nationally it stands at 18%.
- The rate of offending by LAC in Warwickshire remains relatively constant from 2008 with a rate of 5.3%, below the national comparator at 31st March 2011 which was 7.3%.

Outcomes Sought

- To narrow the gap in outcomes for looked after children and young people as compared with that of the general population
- To have access to universal and targeted health and educational services to meet their assessed needs and circumstances, that will promote the best possible outcomes
- To receive support and positive opportunities to progress into further education, training and employment
- To have both placement choice and stability
- To be subject to clear plans and to be able to participate in decisions and matters that affect their lives
- To sustain improved health and emotional wellbeing and to have opportunities to develop resilience and skills to prepare them for change, independence and adulthood.



What are we going to do about it?

- Warwickshire Children and Young People's Plan
- Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy
- Foster Care Development Plan
- Virtual School for Looked After Children
- Leaving Care Strategy

Who Needs to Know This?

- Commissioners of Children's Services
- Children's Trust Partners
- Schools
- Districts and Boroughs – particularly housing teams

