

# JSNA Review - Prioritisation Tool

## Priority Topic: Looked after children (LAC)

	Score	High	Medium	Low	Zero	Score	Weighting	What's the evidence?
	Criteria	10 points	5 points	1 point	0 points			
Estimated Level of Need	Level of need – Volume	Topic covers an estimated <u>large</u> 'in need' population (>25,000 people).	Topic covers an estimated <u>medium sized</u> 'in need' population (10,000 – 24,999).	Topic covers an estimated <u>small</u> 'in need' population (<10,000).	-	Low - 1 point	1.5	<b>701</b> children(including asylum seekers) are looked after in Warwickshire as at March 2014 (unverified BCI data, not yet submitted)
	Level of need – Severity	The population concerned have ' <u>severe</u> ' needs.	The population concerned have ' <u>considerable</u> ' needs.	The population concerned have ' <u>moderate</u> ' needs.	-	<b>High - 10 points</b>	1.5	Children who are looked after suffer some of the most serious negative life events including abuse, neglect and family dysfunction. Their needs include poor emotional wellbeing and poor educational attainment.
	Level of need – Trend	Available evidence suggests <u>rapidly worsening</u> situation over time.	Available evidence suggests <u>worsening</u> situation over time.	Available evidence suggests situation has remained <u>stable</u> over time.	Available evidence suggests <u>improving</u> situation over time.	Medium - 5 points	1	Including asylum seekers – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012 = 681, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013 = 698 An <b>increase</b> of 3%
	Level of need – Benchmarks	Available evidence suggests <u>very high</u> prevalence relative to comparator areas (the County is a clear statistical outlier).	Available evidence suggests <u>above average</u> prevalence relative to comparator areas.	Available evidence suggests prevalence <u>in-line</u> with comparator areas.	Available evidence suggests <u>relatively low</u> prevalence relative to comparator areas.	<b>High - 10 points</b>	1	Warwickshire's looked after rate per 10,000 is <b>significantly worse</b> than our statistical neighbours Warwickshire = 62.0, Stat Neigh = 48.8, England = 60.0
	What is the magnitude of potential health benefit from dealing with the issue? What is the ability to benefit?	<u>Large</u> potential health benefits to be gained.	<u>Medium</u> potential health benefits to be gained.	<u>Small</u> potential health benefits to be gained.	-	Medium - 5 points	1	Looked after children experience some of the poorest health outcomes of our child population. SDQ scores are used to ascertain the emotional wellbeing of LAC. LAC experience significantly worse mental health than all children.
Early Intervention	Does the topic have early intervention implications? Is it any emerging issue which is likely to cause further problems in the future?	<u>Clear, demonstrable evidence</u> that there is a <u>strong case</u> for early intervention.	<u>Some evidence</u> which highlights areas suitable early intervention.	<u>Weak evidence</u> that the topic has areas suitable early intervention.	<u>No evidence</u> to suggest that the topic contains areas suitable early intervention.	<b>High - 10 points</b>	1	Safely preventing children from becoming LAC is one of the key aims of Warwickshire County Council in managing our looked after population. Diverting children to prevent them from being looked after was a key tenet of the Dartington Project which concluded in March 2014.

	Score	High	Medium	Low	Zero	Score	Weighting	What's the evidence?
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Consultation & Engagement	What level of qualitative information do we have on the issue?	<u>Consistent evidence of strong views</u> from stakeholders, patients, residents and/or service users.	<u>Some evidence of strong views</u> from stakeholders, patients, residents and/or service users.	<u>Weak evidence of views</u> from stakeholders, patients, residents and/or service users.	<u>No evidence of views</u> from stakeholders, patients, residents and/or service users.	Medium - 5 points	1	Looked after children tell us that we could be better at looking after them: <i>"Not consistent with helping me", "Don't really help me with budgeting", "Doesn't have consistent contact", "Dumped me in places that weren't appropriate", Did not have regular contact with me when supposed to"</i> <sup>1</sup>
Inequalities	What is the scale of inequality?	<u>Persistent, wide scale geographic and population-based</u> inequalities are clearly apparent.	<u>Some notable geographic or population-based</u> inequalities are apparent.	<u>Some minor inequalities</u> exist.	<u>Little or no evidence</u> of inequalities.	Medium - 5 points	1	Nuneaton and Bedworth has the largest numbers of LAC as well as the most child poverty. Children whose parents are substance misusers are more likely to be looked after and families where there is domestic violence.
Wider Impact	What broader impact does the topic have on the local population?	A number of <u>significant, clear and obvious direct impacts</u> .	A <u>moderate direct and/or indirect impact</u> .	A <u>minor indirect impact</u> .	<u>Unclear, little or no impact</u> .	Medium - 5 points	1	There is some impact as children who are looked after become adults who may have poor adult outcomes such as substance misuse, mental health issues, long term unemployment, offending behaviour. They in turn have children who may not have positive role modelling from their parents. Children who are looked after are 2.5x more likely to become teenage parents and more likely to have those children taken into care thus costing local authorities more to care for and an indirect economic cost of teenage parenthood.
Cost Implications	Estimated economic cost associated with tackling the topic in Warwickshire	<u>High levels (multi-millions of £s) of both direct and indirect estimated economic costs</u> both now and in the future.	<u>Medium levels (c. £5 million) of direct and/or indirect estimated economic costs</u> both now and in the future.	<u>Low levels (&lt;£1 million) of estimated economic costs</u> either now/and or in the future.	-	<b>High - 10 points</b>	1.5	The average weekly cost in 2003-04 of a child in Local Authority foster care was £349, and £2,048 for children in residential homes <sup>2</sup> The Dartington Project worked on an estimated cost of £30,000 per child looked after.

**Total Score = 76.5**

**Maximum points available: 115**

<sup>1</sup> Children in Care Council, Care Leavers Charter Survey Results – 2013, WCC

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/corporate/ChildAct.nsf/1029ad87fa05b65480256fa9005b04c5/1b0f5102cd5d5d5b80256fe3002edcb4/\\$FILE/ATTIX320.doc](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/corporate/ChildAct.nsf/1029ad87fa05b65480256fa9005b04c5/1b0f5102cd5d5d5b80256fe3002edcb4/$FILE/ATTIX320.doc)