

# CORPORATE PARENTING FORUM

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2023

At 5.30 pm

via

Virtual Meeting - Online access, on [RBWM YouTube](#)

## SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

### Part I

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No</u>
8.	<u>Annual Care Leavers Impact Report</u> To receive the annual Care Leavers Impact report.	3 - 6

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## Corporate Parenting Forum -Report Summary for Kickback

<b>Report title:</b>	AfC RBWM annual impact Report Care Leavers January 2022 to December 2022
<b>Who's presenting the report</b>	Isabel Prinsloo Team Manager Children in Care and Care Leavers for Marie Bell
<b>The main things we have found are</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Face to Face engagement with our 18 to 25 age group has significantly improved and remains at a higher level consistently.</li> <li>2. Participation of our 18+ Care Leavers in the Care Leaver Forum continues to be a challenge.</li> <li>3. Our Local Offer cohort seeks out PA's for support when needed,.</li> <li>4. The corporate parenting agenda is starting to move forward in Care Leavers being supported outside of AFC e.g. hardship fund, exemption of council tax etc.</li> <li>5. We have been successful in offering more internal RBWM/AFC employment opportunities to our Care Leavers in RBWM over the last year.</li> <li>6. The demand on the service has grown due to the mandatory UASC quota from the government set at 0.1% of the population, therefore the PA team has expanded and we have now grown from 2 PA's in 2018 to 8 PA's all permanent. Once fixed term contract.</li> <li>7. Pathway Plans in date and signed off in the last 6 months continue to fluctuate although the position is still strong overall.</li> <li>8. EET strong position and maintained.</li> <li>9. In Touch very strong and consistently maintained in mid to upper 90%'s.</li> </ol>
<b>The reason we did this report</b>	We want to understand what is working well, what we are worried about and what needs to happen so that we can always improve the service for our Care Leavers Service.
<b>What we did to get the information in this report</b>	This report has been written following a review of the Performance Board datasets and weekly reports produced by our Intelligence and Improvement service over the 6 month period between January 2022 and December 2022.
<b>What we have found that is working well</b>	Since the refocus and development of the dedicated Children in Care and Care Leavers service in June 2020, we have refined our data reporting, improving the accuracy. We are using the Paris User Group and the intelligence team to further focus our data in line with the evolving service needs

1. **Face to Face contact with our under 21 cohort** - Since aligning our face to face contact with young people in line with what they feel is needed e.g. weekly, monthly, termly, four monthly or six monthly, we have seen more meaningful engagement and have over the year 2022 demonstrated a consistent healthy picture. Our under 21 cohort is showing as **52% December 2022** which is not much different compared to **December 2021** where it was showing as **54%**. However when you review the data over the whole of 2022 it is evident that a dip occurs over the Christmas period as face to face contact with our young people did not dip below **61%** as the lowest point between January and October 2022 with the highest point **88% in February 2022**.
2. **Face to face contact with our 21+ cohort** - is reflecting a healthy picture. This is the cohort of Care Leavers who are 21 and over who continue to be supported via a pathway plan, they are mainly young people who are in Higher Education. While the Department of Education does not capture this data, our PA's will keep in touch with these Care Leavers. Although there is no requirement to see them face to face at this time it is positive to see that we have also achieved a much more healthy engagement with our 21+ cohort showing as **47% (Dec 2022)** compared to **14% in December 2021** of young people being seen face to face by their PA's. Over the year we have however seen much higher levels of engagement for this cohort than experienced historically with our highest peak at **91% in July 2022**. However it does need to be recognised that this cohort in number is small so any fluctuation can either result in a significant spike or dip in %. Tracking the number over the year to cohort generally consists of 11 young people at it's lowest and 20 young people at its highest. It is however noteworthy that we have not dipped below **45% since April 2022**.
3. **Local Offer** - These are young people who are 21 + not in Higher Education and who no longer need formal pathway planning. As part of our extended duty which now runs up to 25, the Local Offer Care Leavers can reach out and request support from their PA at any time. We are seeing the majority of this cohort stay in touch with the service reaching out when they need support. At present we have **61** young people held under Local Offer compared to **52** at the time of the previous report in January 2022. Even Though the current data shows growth in numbers, 6 young people turned 25 during the year, which means we were at 67. This also means in addition to their active case loads PA's continue to support these young people when they reach out.
4. **Care Leavers Covenant /Corporate parenting duties are more prominent as observed via Support accessed from the Hardship Fund** - A lot of work is taking place around the corporate parenting duties to our Care Leavers. It is more evident that the cost of living increase has had a significant

impact on our young people. It is encouraging as it is becoming more evident that the care leaver duty is well received in other areas, we have been able to access financial support from the Hardship Fund for our care leavers in and out of borough in December 2022. This also included our Local Offer young people and in total a 113 young people were identified to receive the £145.00.

5. **RBWM / AFC offering Employment opportunities to our Care Leavers** - We have had 2 care leavers successfully secure employment within RBWM and 1 in AFC ops 2. A lot of work is taking place with regards to the Care Leavers covenant and there are currently five work streams in effect to further expand on our offer and support to Care Leavers which is across agencies and sectors and not just internally to AFC.
6. **PA team increased due to increased demand on the service** -There has been a substantial increase in our UASC numbers as a result of the mandatory government 0.1% quota and the second Hotel being established in Datchet. The PA team has now grown from 5 to 8, one of which is a fixed term contract where one of our Care Leavers have been successful in securing the post, aiming to progress towards a social work qualification.
7. **EET** - We have sustained a healthy position around our Care Leavers in Employment, Education and Training. As of December 2022 we are at **58% (38 out of 66 YP)** although lower compared to December 2021 where we were at **61%** however the total number of care leavers were lower at that time (**39 out of 64 YP**). Having reviewed the data over the year our lowest percentage was **57%** in August and our highest **66%** in July 2022.
8. **In touch** - Our Care Leavers in touch with the service is a healthy picture, currently we are at 97% (December 2022) and we have achieved a well sustained picture with **94%** in touch as our lowest number in December 2021 and our highest **98%** in October 2022.

**What we have found that we are worried about**

1. Pathway Planning inconsistent although overall strong - We have maintained a strong position with regards to pathway planning across the year. However we still see dips on occasion and have not yet achieved a consistent position. At present we are at **88%** compared to **79%** the same time last year. **Over the year we have seen Dec 2021 79%, Jan 2022 89%, Feb 2022 88%, March 2022 85%, April 2022 82%, May 2022 67%, June 2022 61%, July 2022 76%, August 2022 91%, Sept 2022 99%, Oct 2022 96%, Nov 2022 97%, Dec 2022 88%.** It does need to

	<p>be noted that there has been a lot of staff sickness throughout the year so although the data is not maintained at a consistent level, it has overall been maintained at a healthy level. The additional 3 PA's started in December 2022 so it is hoped this will help with more resilience in the service when staff sickness presents.</p> <p>2. <b>Participation of Care Leavers remains a challenge</b> - We have been working hard to try and capture our Care Leavers engagement in the Care Leavers Forum since 2020, this remains an area of challenge. A refocus has been done and our participation officer in partnership with the Care Leavers team has outlined a program for the year 2023 to try and secure more meaningful engagement. Sadly the Christmas meal in December was unsuccessful with just one Care Leaver showing an interest.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The service to build resilience around staff sickness to not compromise on maintaining consistent pathway planning data.</li> <li>2. Work continues around Participation for our 18+ care leavers in the care leavers forum. Work will also be done to do some focused work around our UASC's to expand the offer specifically for this cohort.</li> <li>3. Ongoing work as part of the Care Leavers Covenant to establish and create more varied EET opportunities for care experienced young people and commit to the corporate parenting agenda.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Other documents to read</b></p>	<p>No other documents</p>
<p><b>Did you attend a Kickback session to discuss your report?</b></p>	<p>Not yet</p>
<p><b>Was there anything specific that Kickback highlighted when you spoke to them about your report</b></p>	<p>Without presenting, nothing to report yet.</p>

Please see example report as a best practice model:

[Best Practice Example Corporate Parenting Forum Report Summary for Kickback July...](#)