

Achievements of the LAC Strategy Group

- Fewer looked after children have to live outside of Bradford.
- More specialist long-term, commissioned foster placements to meet specific needs of young people.
- Young people were supported to produce 'Get the Life You Want (GLUW)' research document and video.
- More young people now live in long-term stable placements.
- Improved educational outcomes for looked after children at all key stages.
- More care leavers are attending University.
- Fewer care leavers are Not in Education, Employment of Training (NEET) – we are closing the gap with other young people in Bradford.
- Leaving Care Service Accommodation Forum established: more suitable accommodation available for care leavers (fourfold expansion of the Supported Tenancies Contract Scheme between 2007 and 2009).
- 'New Kid on the Block' DVD produced to address offending behaviour by young people in residential care.
- Setting up the Children in Care Council.
- Full review and refresh of Looked After Children Strategy.

To find out more, visit:

www.bradfordcisif.com or contact the Information Management & Performance Support Team on 01274 434837, or e-mail cisifsupport@bradford.gov.uk for log-on details.



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The wording in this document can be made available in other formats such as large print or Braille. Please call 01274 433861.



LAC

The Looked After Children Strategy 2010-2012

Department of Services to Children and Young People

'Improving services and outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers'

We aim to

Promote attachment, resilience and self-esteem for looked after children, young people and care leavers.

Promote positive relationships between children and with their carers. Improve access to co-ordinated services for looked after children which meets their needs.

Ensure looked after children and young people live in safe, stable, secure and caring environments which meet their current and future needs.

Looked after children need all services to work together to meet their needs and this can only be achieved when everyone understands and accepts their responsibilities for this group of children and young people. I am committed to ensuring that every looked after child has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential and experiences safe and positive parenting

Councillor Kelly
 Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

We must ensure that the district is fully aware of what is required to meet the needs and wishes of looked after children, that we meet the requirements of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and clearly demonstrate how the expectations outlined within the Bradford Children and Young People's Plan will be addressed for care leavers and looked after children.

Julie Jenkins
 Assistant Director Social Care
 Chair of Looked after Children Strategy Group

We want all children in the district to aim high, and recognise that for the most vulnerable children and young people in the district they need and deserve extra support to 'b someone' and that this starts by ensuring they all have a safe, stable place to grow up. I am proud of all the fantastic work up to now that has been undertaken to meet this ambition. In the future, we will work even more closely together focused on improving outcomes for all looked after children in Bradford.

Kath Tunstall
 Strategic Director of Services to Children and Young People



Our 2010 - 2012 Priorities are:

Helping young people live in a stable placement

- Provide sufficient placements which meet children and young people's needs.
- Provide multi-agency support to young people and their carers to ensure placement stability.

Promote Permanence

- Ensure that children under 7 years of age have a final care plan to be cared for outside of public care.
- Reduce the numbers of young people needing to remain in care.

Stay Safe

- Reduce incidences of young people going missing through the implementation of Missing from Care policies.
- Reduce incidences of young people being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation through implementation of CSE policies.

Enjoy

- Make sure young people have full access to leisure and play opportunities by removing barriers to participating in leisure activity.

Health and Well-being

- Ensure children and young people have access to dental care.
- Ensure children and young people get access to specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health services when they need them.

Positive Contribution

- Ensure young people have a say in how services for them are planned and delivered by establishing a Children in Care Council.
- Reduce offending behaviour of looked after young people.

Achieve

- Raise the attainment of looked after children by providing more educational tuition.
- Raise the attainment of looked after children by introducing further performance management that supports the continued improvement of school attendance.

Economic Well-being

- Provide more help to ensure care leavers gain employment, training or stay on in education.
- Ensure care leavers are given a secure foundation to build on by providing good quality housing.



"For every one of our children to have the best possible start in life"