

Notice of Children's Services - Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel Meeting

Monday 17 March 2014, 4.30pm

Royal Hampshire Committee Room, Town Hall, Bournemouth

Panel Members:

Elected Members

Councillor Christopher Wakefield - Chairman

Councillor Malcolm Davies

Councillor Beverley Dunlop

Councillor Susan Phillips - Vice-Chair

Councillor Anne Rey

Councillor Allister Russell

Councillor Nicola Greene - Cabinet Member with portfolio for Education and Children's Services

Non Elected Members

Ms Lynn Giles

Action for Children

Mrs Ella Christopher

Action for Children

Mrs Janice Gilkes

Primary Phase Parent Governor

Mr Ted Taylor

Virtual School Governing Body

Fiona Haughey

Community Health representative

Teri Roberts

Dorset Police representative

Lesley Bond

Foster Carer representative

Helen Hartnell

Foster Carer representative

and

CLICK Members

Minimum Number of Elected Members required to attend - quorum - 3 members

Note to Elected Members: All Members serving on this Panel are required to have a valid Criminal Records Bureau check on account of contact with young people. Please bear this in mind if you are considering substituting for this Panel, and contact Democratic Services at an early stage for advice if you are unsure about this.

For further information please contact: Tom Hancock, Democratic and Member Support Officer, Legal and Democratic. Tel: 01202 454713. E-mail:

tom.hancock@bournemouth.gov.uk

For electronic copies of agenda and minutes visit the Council's website:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Agenda

Please note that this is a timed agenda

Items for Discussion with the Press and Public Excluded*

* NOTE: In relation to the items of business appearing below, the Panel is asked to consider the following resolution: -

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

1. MEMBERSHIP OF PANEL

The Democratic and Member Support Officer will report on the membership of the Panel with any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting, under Rule 5 as set out below:

It is the responsibility of every Member to declare, at the relevant stage of a meeting, any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item under consideration as required by the Localism Act 2011 or in any event by the time the item of the business is reached.

Members are also asked to state fully the nature of the interest(s), which will be recorded in the record of decisions. If anyone has a query on any particular matter, please contact the Democratic Services Officer in advance of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - circulated at '3'.

4.35pm – 4.40pm

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013.

4. ICE BREAKER

4.40pm – 4.50 pm

5. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

4.50pm – 5.20pm

To receive a presentation from the Head of the Virtual School on how well looked after children do at school both academically and in terms of other achievements.

6. BREAK

5.20pm – 5.30pm

7. CARE LEAVERS – circulated at '7'.

5.30pm – 5.55pm

To receive a report on how young people are supported when leaving care.

8. ADVOCACY SERVICE – circulated at '8'.

5.55pm - 6:20pm

To receive a report on issues raised by advocacy service users.

9. CLOTHING VOUCHERS

6:20pm – 6:25pm

To receive a brief update on the provision of clothing vouchers for looked after children

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other business of which prior notice has been received and by special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair is of the opinion that the items should be considered as a matter of urgency.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Children's Services Corporate Parenting
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel
4 November 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Chris Wakefield - Chairman; Councillors Carol Ainge, Nicola Greene, Susan Phillips, Malcolm Davies, Beverley Dunlop, and Allister Russell.

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lesley Bond	Foster Carer Representative
Ella Christopher	Action for Children
Sarah Fletcher	Community Health Representative
Ted Taylor	Virtual School Governing Body

and 3 members of CLICK

ALSO PRESENT:

Gill Bishop	Service Manager, Family Support & Placement Services
Lisa Male	Looked After Children Participation Worker
Kim Drake	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Stefan Kleipoedszus	Team Manager, Children's Social Care
Mary Taylor	Team Manager, Fostering Care
Sarah Longdale	Interim Manager, Access to Resources
Hilary Evans	Strategy Leader, Vulnerable Groups/SEN & Inclusion

The meeting started at 4.35pm and finished at 6.25pm.

Apologies for late arrival were received from Gill Bishop (arrived at 4:40pm) Councillors Nicola Greene (arrived at 4.40pm), Beverly Dunlop (arrived at 4.45pm) and Susan Phillips (arrived at 4.50pm).

Cllr Greene left at 6.20pm

The meeting adjourned between 5.45pm and 5.52pm.



Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place at the Littledown Youth Centre at 4.30 pm on 3 March 2014.

It is recommended that you check this information with Democratic Services closer to the scheduled date of the next meeting in case the arrangements have been changed.

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4
November 2013

Contact: Tom Hancock, Democratic and Member Support Officer
 01202 454713  tom.hancock@bournemouth.gov.uk

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 1	28.	<p>Membership of Panel</p> <p>Councillor Carol Ainge attended the meeting as a substitute for Councillor Rey who sent her apologies.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Fiona Haughey who is being replaced on the Panel by Sarah Fletcher for a 6 month period.</p>	
Item 2	29.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests made by Panel members on any of the agenda items.</p>	
Item 3	30.	<p>Election of Vice-Chair</p>	<p>Councillor Phillips was elected Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the municipal year 2013/14.</p>
	31.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting held on 2 September 2013</p> <p>Item 4, Minute no. 21 - How effective are we in providing services for and working with Looked after Children</p> <p>Item 6, Minute no. 23 - The Panel recommended the investigation of clothing vouchers for young people</p> <p>Item 8, Minute no. 25 - The final findings of the Group would be reported to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>The Panel asked for this update to be included in the Work Programme.</p> <p>The Panel asked to be told the outcome of investigations into this matter.</p> <p>The Panel were informed that a report will be</p>

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
			going to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 21 November.
Item 5	32.	<p>Ice Breaker</p> <p>The CLICK Members presented their ice breaker and everyone present took part. The ice breaker centred on good communication skills and understanding differences. Members and Officers shared their responses with the Panel.</p>	The Members of CLICK were thanked for organising the ice breaker and it was highlighted that the ice breakers are always a thoughtful and worthwhile exercise.
Item 6	33.	<p>Update on Placements</p> <p>The Interim Access to Resources Manager gave a presentation outlining the latest data on placements and referrals made to the Access to Resources team during the period April to September 2013. The presentation began by informing the Panel what the Access to Resources team does and who they are. It was explained that all placements were arranged in accordance with the appropriate regulations.</p> <p>The Panel were informed that the numbers of Looked after Children had fluctuated over the period but as of 27 September stood at 279. It was also noted that there had been a 29% increase in referrals in the 2nd Quarter compared to the 1st Quarter.</p> <p>The Panel were informed that the largest portion of placements were with Independent Foster Agencies</p>	<p>The Panel noted the report.</p> <p>The Panel asked to receive further context on the data surrounding receipt of Welcome Book.</p> <p>The Panel asked that information on out of Borough placements be shared with it once the data has been collated.</p> <p>That a copy of the slides be sent to the Deputy Leader as Edward Timpson MP (Children and Families Minister) expressed an interest in receiving information on Bournemouth Borough Council's performance at a recent conference.</p>

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

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		<p>followed by Bournemouth Borough Council's in-house carers. It was emphasised that the Access to Resources team regularly review the provision of services offered by the Independent Foster Agencies.</p> <p>The presentation revealed that September had been the busiest month for new placement and moves between placements, which included the moving of Looked after Children from emergency care into a more suitable longer term option. It was emphasised that children are informed if a placement is temporary and that they may move to a different placement after only a short time. Bournemouth's figures on 'placement stability' were strong in the national context.</p> <p>It was also explained that the most common reason for children coming into care was neglect.</p> <p>The importance of the data streams were highlighted as they could lead to trends being identified which would allow the service to tailor itself to the needs of its recipients and also allow for greater prevention work.</p> <p>CLICK members felt that it was important for young people to have their voices heard when it comes to placements and placement moves.</p> <p>The Panel enquired as to the age when children leave care, 18, and to whether there was any flexibility so that</p>	

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

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		<p>children were not forced to leave a placement before they were ready. The Panel were reassured that there is flexibility to allow children to stay longer in a placement and that support for children entering higher education can be maintained until they are 25.</p> <p>Mary Taylor informed the Panel about the recruitment of foster carers, telling the Panel that the advertisements asking for people to come forward had been taken over by an outside agency. The Panel were also informed that a target of recruiting an additional 25 foster families a year for the next three years had been set and the expectation is that it will be met.</p> <p>It was explained that Bournemouth Borough Council does not pay its in-house carers as much as Independent Foster Agencies pay their carers but even so foster carers had applied to join Bournemouth's in-house carers from Independent Foster Agencies as a result of the levels of support offered and that the in-house carers help to shape the service.</p> <p>Questions were asked about how foster families are recruited and it was noted the process is appropriately intrusive and that standards are high as the primary concern of the service is that Looked after Children get their needs met by foster carers who are good role-models and are able to meet the needs of the child.</p>	

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

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Item 8	34.	<p>Stepping Stones</p> <p>In a change to the published agenda the panel were informed of the 'Stepping Stones' Launch in place of the 'Question Time' item. Stepping Stones is a new charter which outlines Bournemouth Council's promise to help support young people who leave the Council's care into independent living which was officially launched on the 24 October 2013 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bournemouth.</p> <p>CLICK members informed the Panel that the charter amounted to a 'Platform to Independence' and that a number of guarantees were made by the Council to Care Leavers on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Rights</u> - Care Leavers have a right to see their files with good support and for free and receive help in understanding their background and the important times in their life. They will also have the right to be treated with respect and see their Pathways Worker every 8 weeks in person and receive local support if they move to another area. • <u>Accommodation</u> -The Council will support Care Leavers into new, suitable accommodation providing rent guarantees were necessary and help with the process of moving and they will do this only when Care Leavers are ready to live independently. The Council will also make sure that Care Leavers who attend university have a place 	<p>The CLICK members were thanked for their presentation and for the inspiring launch of Stepping Stones.</p> <p>A copy of the Care Leavers Charter be sent to all Councillors to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities as corporate parents.</p> <p>The CPP feed into the review process for the Care Leavers Charter.</p> <p>CPP and Council members receive training on the Care Leavers Charter and their roles as corporate parents in order to raise awareness.</p> <p>CLICK members report back to the CPP once they have conducted their audit of services.</p>

Children's Services Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel, 4 November 2013

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
		<p>to return to outside of term time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Health</u> - Care Leavers will have a right to a local doctor and dentist and will receive help should they require extra support with health issues such as fitness, drug use and mental health. The charter also guarantees to provide access to Bournemouth leisure centres at a reduced rate and make sure Care Leavers are aware of any assistance that they are entitled to regarding prescription costs. • <u>Finance</u> - Care Leavers will be entitled to help with budgeting and understanding the different kinds of financial products that exist. Care Leavers will also receive a £2,000 setting up home grant and advice on what to do if they run out of money. • <u>Employment & Education</u> - Care Leavers will receive support with job and college applications and be informed about the funding options for further education. The Council will also undertake to get Care Leavers work experience or voluntary work and help Care Leavers to work out what they want for their future. <p>CLICK members also outlined a number of workshops that are being planned in relation to helping Looked after Children. The Workshops will offer the children a chance to learn about different aspects of independent living such as fire and personal safety as well as practical skills like cooking and DIY.</p> <p>Members of the Panel felt that Looked after Children and</p>	

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		Care Leavers would really benefit from gaining employability and financial skills and that effort should be made to ensure that special guests who can assist the children in this way be invited to the workshops and that all the members of the Panel should assist in getting these guests to visit the workshops.	
Item 9	35.	Item of Any Other Business - Date of the next meeting. The Panel enquired as to the date of the next meeting.	The date be circulated to members of the Panel.

What Support Do We Provide to Young People Leaving Care, and How Effective Is It?

Number of Care Leavers

- 151 in total
- 108 Care Leavers (18+)
 - 95 receive full Care Leaver Service,
 - 13 Qualifying (DUTY - Advice and guidance only).
- 43 YP's (under 18) are receiving Care Leaver service.
 - 1 Qualifying

Pathways Planning

- Commitment to supporting early planning for 15/16 year olds.
- Reviewed 6monthly at LAC reviews (16/17) and by the Pathways Worker (18+).

Housing and Tenancy Support?

- Tenancy support from Pathways and housing partners,
- Floating support services.
- Regular communication between Pathways and Housing Services.
- Ability to act as Guarantors,
- Rent deposit and rent in advance scheme.
- Quota flats
- Support referring to SP Hub.

Support with Employment, Further and Higher Education and Training?

- IYS
- Support with CV's and Job applications
- Support attending Job Centre/benefits appointments.
- Partnership working with other Local Authorities and Job Centre,
- Liaising with colleges to support education.

Work Placements

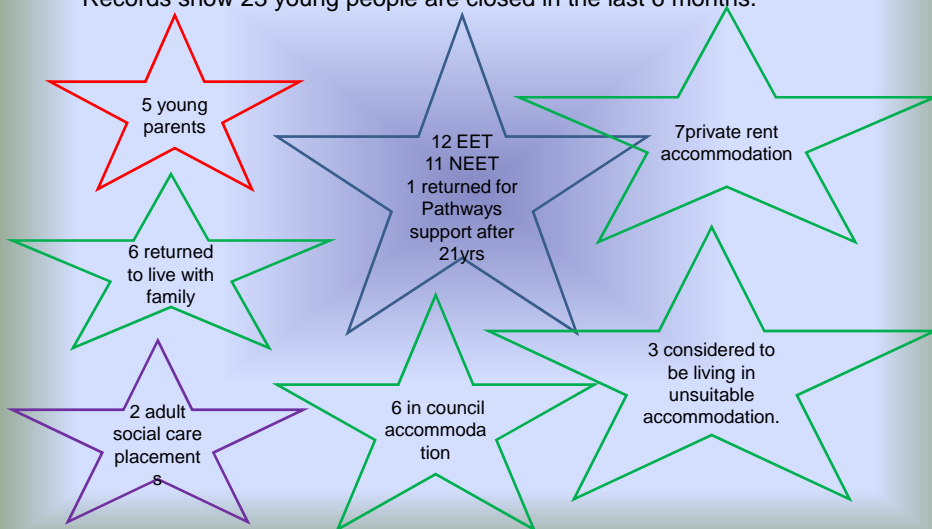
- Opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships;
 - 2 Care Leavers currently undertaking council apprenticeships
 - 3 care leavers on other type of apprenticeships
- Opening Doors
- Good links between the IYS and the LAC team and 'go for it' bulletin fortnightly email.
- Barclays finance training.
- Ongoing commitment to continuing to develop links with Managers who can offer further apprenticeships.

Support for Access to Benefits

- Advance DWP claims for JSA before turning 18.
- Support to access bursaries at college.
- University Grants of £3000 a year.

What do we know about the life outcomes of care leavers?

Records show 23 young people are closed in the last 6 months.



Keeping in Touch

10 care leavers are not in touch within 1 year of leaving care.

6 Returned home to parents and have become qualifying so are able to access support and guidance as and when they need to.

4 Former Relevant who are not engaged with pathways services.

18 in total (18-21yrs old) not in touch/not engaging with services, 11 of these are qualifying.



Children's Rights & Advocacy

**Quarterly
Contract Monitoring Report**

3rd Quarter 2013/14

8

Contract with Bournemouth

Start date 01/07/07

Report for October, November and December 2013

Eleanor Christopher Senior Advocate

ACTION FOR CHILDREN
c/o Bournemouth Learning Centre,
Ensburry Avenue,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH10 4HG

Tel office: 01202 525643

Action for Children's purpose

Action for Children's values express the timeless guiding principles that underpin our work. We would sooner close our doors than breach them.

- **Passion** - we are driven by our desire to help children and young people overcome injustice and disadvantage
- **Equality** - we believe all children and young people have equal worth and equal rights
- **Hope** - we believe in a child or young person's potential, no matter what they have experienced or what they have done

Action for Children's purpose

Our purpose expresses our enduring reason for being. It must guide the organisation and inspire our people:

- To help the most vulnerable children and young people break through injustice, deprivation and inequality, so they can achieve their full potential.

Action for Children's vision

Our vision describes our ideal: what the world would look like if **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** ever fully achieved its purpose:

- Our vision is of a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging, and are loved and valued. A world where they can fulfil their potential, shape their destiny and experience the joy of life

ACTION FOR CHILDREN meets the needs of children and young people who most need support to achieve their full potential. Through our work and through speaking out, we seek to break the cycle of deprivation. We challenge injustice and empower children to overcome the obstacles in their lives that hold them back. We tailor our work to local circumstances, in partnership with children and young people, families, communities and local organisations.

STATISTICS**Total number of new cases for this quarter:**

Bournemouth: 46

Number of cases closed this quarter:

Bournemouth: 41

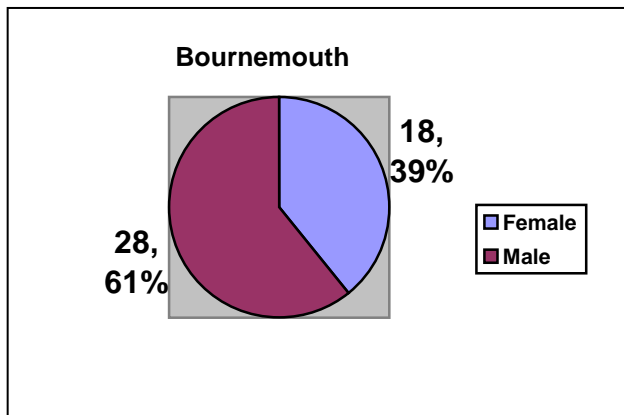
Number of cases carried forward at end of quarter:

Bournemouth: 42

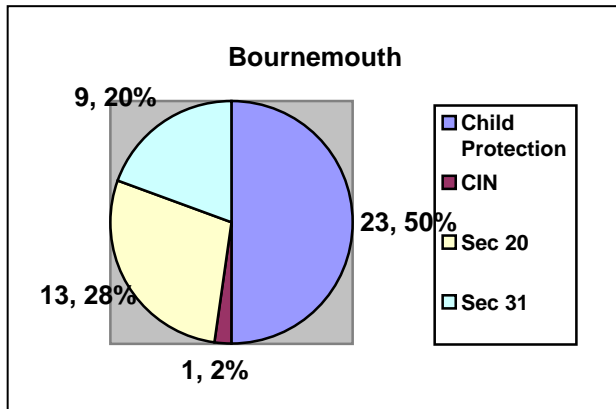
Bournemouth monthly cases

Month:	Number of cases brought forward from last reporting period	Number of cases opened during reporting period	Number of cases closed during reporting period	Number of cases carried over to Next reporting period
July 2013	33	24	22	35
August 2013	35	13	14	34
September 2013	34	14	10	38
October 2013	37	12	19	30
November 2013	30	23	15	38
December 2013	38	11	7	42
Total to date		97		

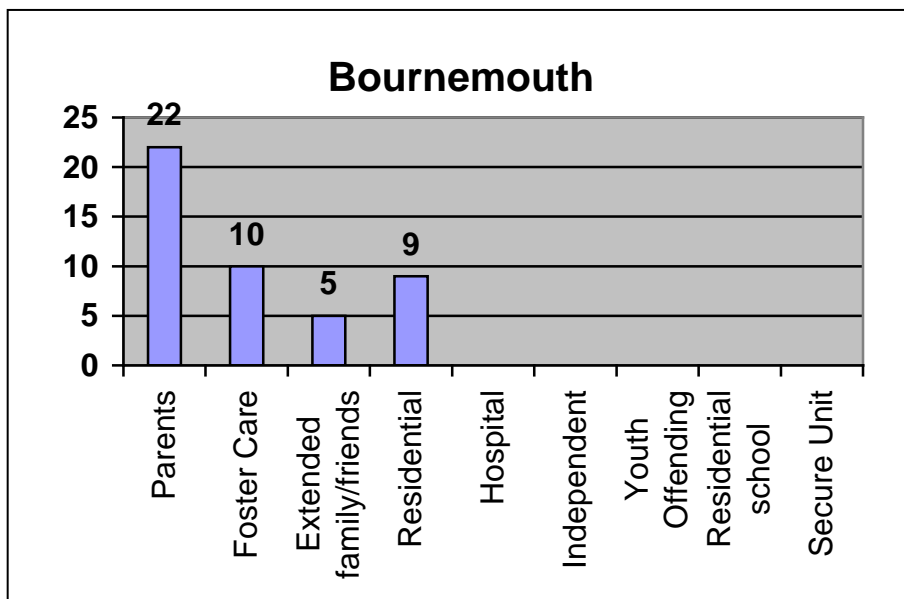
Gender:



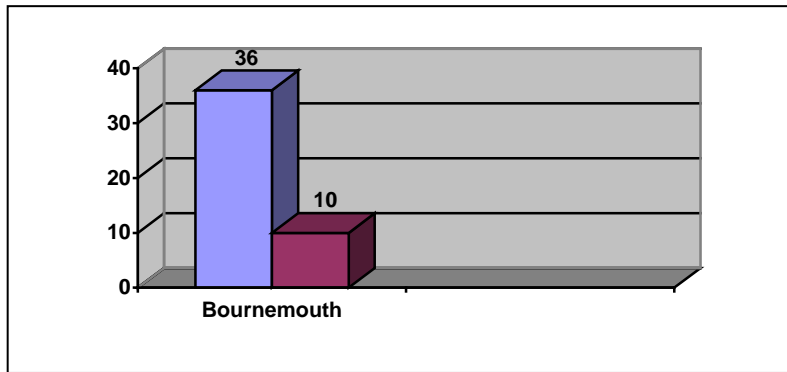
Status:



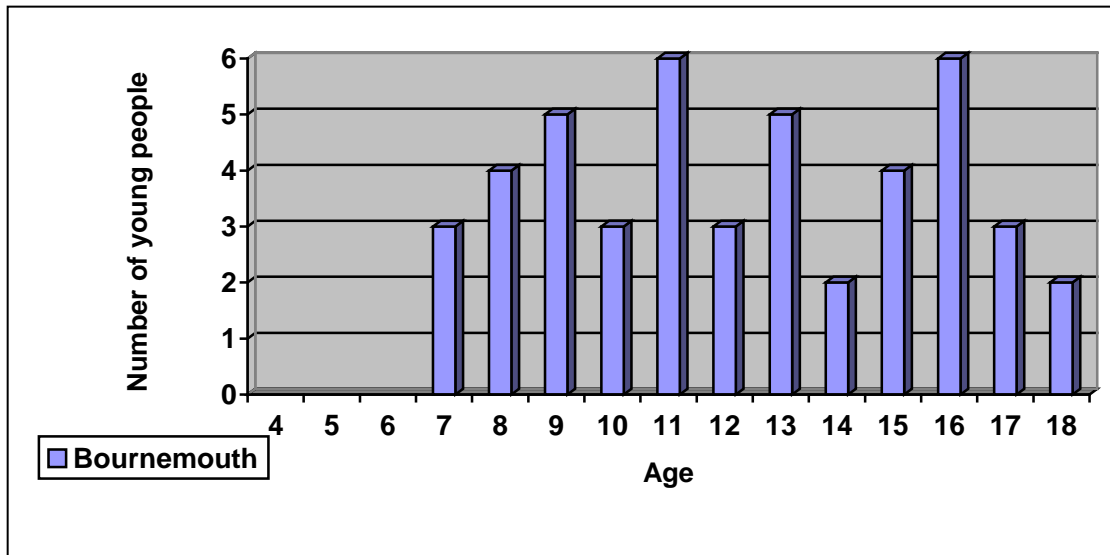
Placement/Living arrangements:



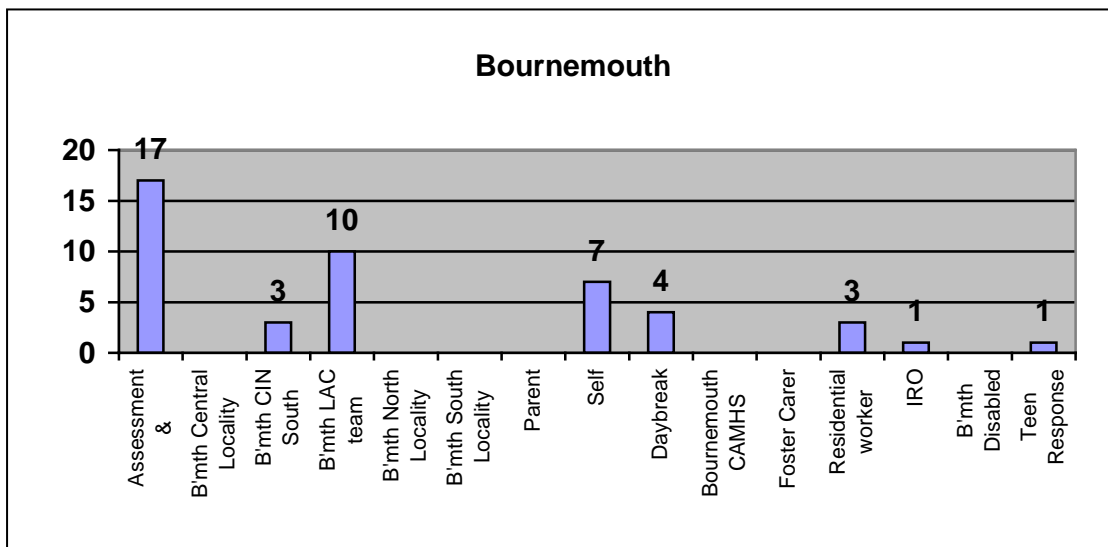
Geographical location:- In/out of county (placed more than 20 miles from Borough)



Age of young people:



Source of referral:



Case issues on referral:

Bournemouth Case issue on referral	Oct, Nov & Dec 2013
Support with wishes and feelings at Initial CPC	13
Support with wishes & feelings at CPC review	3
Support with wishes and feelings at LAC	10
Support with wishes and feelings – Transition meeting	
Support at family group meeting/conference	4
Support at Multidisciplinary Meeting	
Access to Mother/contact with family	7
CIC legal issue	
Support with going to court	
Support with education issues and meetings	
Planning meeting	
Complaint re: Children's Services	
Complaint – transition into adulthood – accomm	
Complaint re: Social Services actions	
Support with mental health meeting at residential unit	
Support with transition into adult services	2
Placement Issue	4
Education	
Residential Care	1
Child in Need Review	
Support with accommodation	
Lack of Interaction with Friends	
Views re Foster Placement	1
Views re Living Arrangements	1

Ethnic origin:

White British -	42
Irish -	1
Mixed other -	1
Black/Black British -	2

Number of referrals for children and young people with a disability:

Month:	Type of disability:	Number:
Oct	Autistic Spectrum Learning Disability Mental Health	1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth
Nov	Autistic Spectrum Learning Disability Mental Health Speech	1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth

Dec	Autistic Spectrum Learning Disability Mental Health	1 Bournemouth 1 Bournemouth 2 Bournemouth
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Independent Visitors

Number of IV visits provided July - Sept	
	Bournemouth:
July 13	1
Aug 13	1
Sept 13	1
Oct 13	3
Nov 13	2
Dec 13	1

Bournemouth has 2 young people matched to an advocate. One frequently has 2 short visits rather than one long one. This explains 3 in October.

Complaints:

There have not been any complaints to **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** regarding the service provided.

Feedback from children and young people regarding the services they have received:-

ACTION FOR CHILDREN are holding a prize draw with a voucher of £30.00 as a prize to encourage young people to fill in a questionnaire providing feedback of the service. The responses from the feedback forms sent to all young people will be included in the end of year report.

Feedback from children and young people regarding the services they have received 2012/13

Themes:

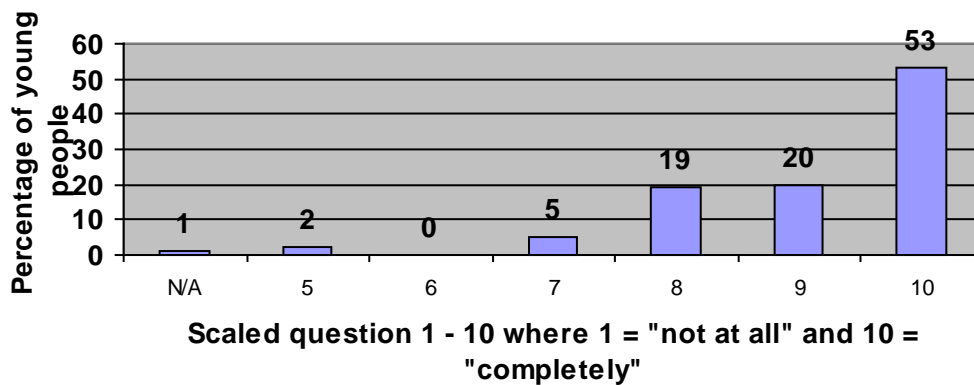
The advocacy service has been involved with a variety of issues. We believe that our involvement has reduced the number of complaints children and young people make. We work with all involved to resolve issues as they are identified.

Access to family members is the highest number of issues we support children and young people with. Although not every case is resolved as the child or young person may have liked it to, we have been able to ensure that the child or young person feels that their views have been listened to, and that they understand the reasons for the arrangements.

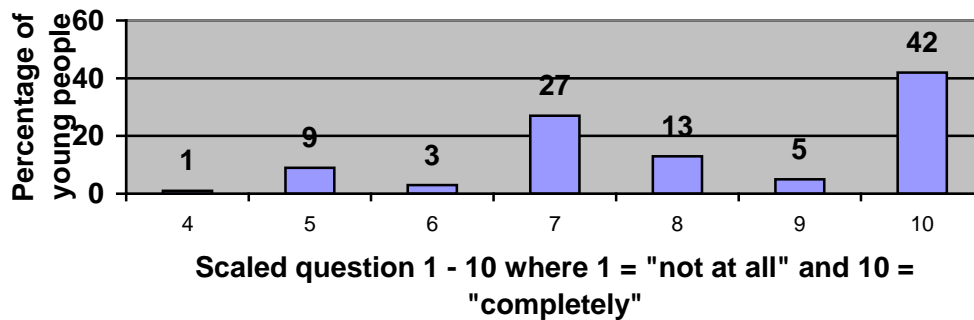
The change of social workers is another theme that frequently occurs. Children and young people say they do not like the frequency of the changes in social workers. It means they have to repeat their story again and again, this is very painful for some children and young people. Frequent changes of social workers mean that the children and young people do not feel they can build up a trusting relationship. In one case we had a young person who had not been allocated a social worker and it took

several weeks until a locum social worker was allocated to the young person. These changes are difficult for children and young people.

Did your advocate get your views right?



Did you feel your views were listed to/taken into account?

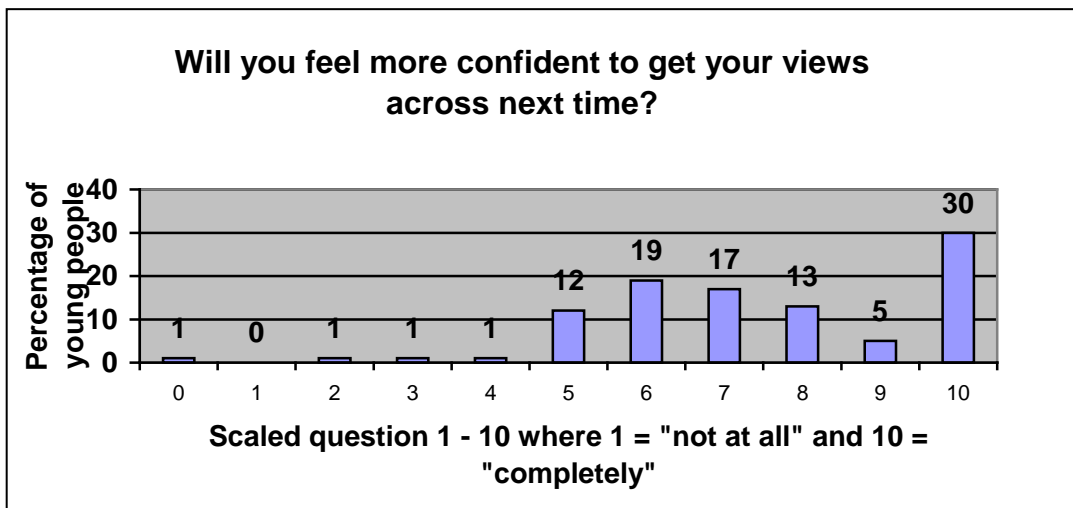


If not, do you wish to make a complaint?

Yes	4%
No	96%

Where young people scored 6 or over this generally meant that they felt that their views were taken into account and listened to so there was no need for them to make a complaint.

When the advocate discussed making a complaint all of the young people decided they did not wish to make a complaint.



What was good about having an advocate?

Because they get what you are saying.

I can always talk about stuff.

It's helpful. They always have a form to help you. Could be to read/speak for you. They always make sure that you understand.

That I get a chance to express my feelings.

That I don't have to read out my views in front of everybody in the meeting.

I could talk to someone about how I feel.

He or she can be helpful to say or to know what is necessary to do in a dangerous situation. You can consult your problems and feelings and she will help you.

That I got stickers.

She listens well and always kind she asked politely questions and asked how I felt about the situation.

She writes everything I said.

Good advocate to help you for what you need.

That she listened to me.

Made my life a little better, but we could do a bit more work.

Getting my point across.

Eleanor B Christopher
 Senior Advocate
 Jean Haslett
 Service Manager
 Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
 22.01.14