

SUMMONS TO THE MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

When: 7.30pm
Wednesday 17 July 2019

Where: Council Chamber
Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ



Sharon Bridglalsingh
Director Law and Governance

Public Questions and Petitions

The deadline for the submission of public questions and petitions is 7:30 pm on Monday 15 July 2019 and should either be delivered to the address below or sent by email to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Public Speaking

Persons wishing to speak on an agenda item must give notice by not later than 7:15 pm on the day of the meeting

Enquiries

Please contact Simon Heap on 01908 252567 or simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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AGENDA

Item No:

1. Procedure

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes

To approve, and the Mayor to sign as correct records, the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19 June 2019 (Item 1) (**Pages 8 to 25**).

- (c) Disclosure of Interests

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

- (d) Announcements

To receive any announcements.

2. Public Involvement

- (a) Petitions

Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.

- (b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting

None

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

Corporate Parenting Panel – 25 June 2018

Annual Report of the Work of the Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel 2018/19

To receive the Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Item 4) (**Pages 26 to 45**).

5. Councillors' Matters

- (a) Councillors' Questions

Councillors to ask questions of the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.

- (b) Notices of Motions:

- (i) Wheelie Bins

Councillor K Bradburn – 12 June 2019

“That the Council:

- (a) aware of national and international concerns about plastic pollution;
- (b) aware of resident concerns about the extent to which plastic bags increase litter problems in Milton Keynes due to them being split open;
- (c) aware also of the concern of some residents living in terraced houses or flats and shared properties and in areas where space is a consideration;
- (d) being conscious that recycling rates have plateaued and must not be allowed to decline; and
- (e) in the knowledge of a newly procured contract to deliver a waste collection system for the Borough from 2023

calls on the Cabinet, having regard to the fact that discussions must start shortly about the nature of the lorries and equipment to be used in any tender procurement process, to launch a multi-faceted consultation involving the public to explore pilot schemes on the use of wheelie bins in place of plastic sacks and other solutions that understand the different challenges that different estates face.”

(ii) Child Poverty

Councillor Carr – 12 June 2019

1. “That the Council notes that:

- (a) the Community Foundation’s annual report Vital Signs for 2018 records Child Poverty as being as high as 40% in some wards in Milton Keynes borough, with numbers around 12% even in rural areas such as Olney and that this shows that the issue is not isolated to the ‘obvious’ areas of social deprivation but is uniform across the Borough;
- (b) in 2012 Gail Tolley, the then Director of Children’s Services, undertook a review of Child Poverty on behalf of Milton Keynes Council and whilst a valued and informative paper the Community Foundation’s report evidences the lack of local results;
- (c) one of the key recommendations from the 2012 report was the expectations that being employed was a route out of poverty; but low wages, higher prices, limited or zero-hour contracts, and the changes in benefit payments have all contributed to increased numbers of children now living in poverty; and;
- (d) localised issues such as fuel prices in Milton Keynes, which are some of the highest in the country, add a real burden to the family budget, particularly if you live on the outer edges of our community where there is little option to get children to school, parents to work, or shop at the cheaper food stores if you do not run a car.

2. That the Council agrees:

- (a) that parents should not have to choose between food in a child's belly or a roof over their heads, or have to keep children inside on a hot day because they cannot afford sunscreen to protect them from the sun;
- (b) that action is needed to urgently change things and the time for talking has move on, we need action;
- (c) that having the data and the work of Ms Tolley and her team a plan of work is now needed which will identify best practice from outside of the borough, challenge local policy and bring together local talent to establish a sea change, in attitudes and convention. Only by challenging local business to address their practice, by supporting the local food banks, by encouraging home grown food, supporting recycling schemes and creative thinking with the third sector can we can make changes, to do this we must work together;
- (d) to establish a Commission for action;
- (e) to request Cabinet to set out an achievable and ambitious action plan by January 2020 to reduce the percentage of children in poverty across all wards by 2022; and
- (f) that by setting strong and ambitious targets we are supporting local families to contribute to our community, we are helping children obtain their full potential, thus ensuring the families of today are ready to build the city for their tomorrow."

(iii) Parental Leave Policies for Councillors

Councillor Jenkins – 3 July 2019

1. This Council notes that:

- (a) as of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales had parental leave policies for councillors, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- (b) Milton Keynes Council has a diverse range of councillors and over 10% of councillors have had children over the past 4 years;
- (c) as Parliament looks to introduce maternity leave for MPs and the ability for MPs to have proxy votes if an MP is seriously ill or on paternity/maternity leave, that councils should be looking to do the same thing;
- (d) the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors; and

- (e) parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

2. This Council resolves:

- (a) that a cross party working group be established to create and agree a parental leave policy to be implemented, supported by HR;
- (b) to ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate; and
- (c) for Group Leaders to raise the need for proxy voting and parental leave with the Local Government Association to ensure adequate provisions are made to allow both within the Local Government Act.

(iv) Blue Badge (Disabled Person's Parking) Scheme

Councillor Marlow – 3 July 2019

1. That the Council notes that:

- (a) the Government has made changes to the Blue Badge (Disabled Person's Parking) Scheme, to extend the Scheme to cover people with "hidden disabilities" – including people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions;
- (b) while the changes were announced last year, the law was laid before Parliament on 30 April 2019 and comes into force on 30 August 2019;
- (c) with only a month and a half to go until the changes of legislation come into place, officers are still working through what they need to do to assess a resident's eligibility under the new criteria, what information they will need to ask for and what changes the Council will need to make to the application process in order to make an informed decision;
- (d) the Department for Transport has given councils flexibility to create their own application form and process, and this council is legally required to have such a process in place to ensure those with "hidden disabilities" are able to apply; and
- (e) officers are expecting an increase in applications as a result of the changes to legislation which will slow down application processing time due to volume and scrutiny, and requests Cabinet to consider providing additional resources if requested by officers.

2. That the Council requires:

- (a) the responsible Cabinet member to ensure that the new procedures are in place as early as possible so they can be reviewed prior to residents applying;
- (b) that while creating the assessment process, officers take into consideration issues which may prevent those with learning difficulties, autism and mental health issues from coming into Civic Offices for assessment, and make reasonable adjustments such as home or school visits;
- (c) that the responsible Cabinet member ensures that officers have enough training and understanding of “hidden disabilities” by 30 August 2019, so that correct decisions can be made for applicants, in relation to the new guidance.

6. Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive to the Council’s Senior Management Structure

To consider Item 6 (**Page 46**)

7. Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

To consider Item 7 (**Pages 47 to 48**)

8. Named Substitute for Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

To consider appointing a substitute member for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

The Council’s appointed representative is Councillor R Bradburn.

9. Youth Information Service

Further to minute CL19, to consider appointing a representative to the Youth Information Service.

The Council appoints one representative to the Youth Information Service. Two nominations to the position, Councillors Lancaster and Montague, have been received, so the Council is asked to determine who should be the appointed representative.



Minutes of the MEETING OF MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY
19 JUNE 2019 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Crooks (Mayor)

Councillors Akter, Baines, Baume, Bint, Bowyer, Brackenbury, K Bradburn, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, Carr, , Cryer-Whitehead, Darlington, Exon, Ferrans, A Geary, P Geary, Gilbert, Gowans, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Jenkins, Khan, Lancaster, Legg, Long, Marland, Marklew, Marlow, McLean, McPake, Miles, Minns, Montague, Nazir, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Priestley, Raja, Rankine, Reilly, Townsend, Trendall, Wales, Wallis and C Wilson

Aldermen Bartlett and McKenzie and Alderwoman Saunders

Apologies: Councillors Alexander, Hosking, McCall, Middleton, Small, and Walker and Aldermen Beeley, Bristow, Coventry, Henderson, Howell and Alderwomen Irons, Henderson and Lloyd,

CL20 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

CL21 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Crooks, Gilbert and Marklew disclosed a personal interest in Item 5(b)(iii) (Public Open Space in New Housing Estates ['Fleecehold']) as Council nominated Trustees of the Parks Trust.

Councillor Wilson disclosed a personal interest in Item 5(b)(iii) (Public Open Space in New Housing Estates ['Fleecehold']) as partner of Councillor Marklew who was a Council nominated Trustees of the Parks Trust had disclosed a personal interest.

Councillor Legg disclosed a personal interest in Item 5(i) (Freedom From Fear) as a member of USDAW.

CL22 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Queens' Birthday Honours

The Mayor congratulated the following persons who been awarded Honours in the Queens' Birthday Honours:

- Dr Julie Mills, Principal and Chief Executive of Milton Keynes College, who received an OBE for promoting business and education links; and

- Trudie Bird who received an BEM for services to charitable fund raising and the community in Milton Keynes.

The Mayor also congratulated the Stables, Milton Keynes Museum and the Old Bath House, Wolverton who as part of the Birthday honours had been awarded the Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service.

CL23

PETITIONS

- (a) Request for 20 MPH speed limit, Brooklands Road, Bletchley

The Council received a petition, which was presented by Councillor Rankine, requesting a 20 MPH speed limit on Brooklands Road, Bletchley.

Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated that the petition would be taken forward and assessed by the Council's Highway Engineers as to the suitability of the road for a 20 mph speed limit, which would include consultation with local residents.

- (b) Request for 20 MPH speed limit, Duncombe Street, Bletchley

The Council received a petition, which was presented by Councillor Rankine, requesting a 20 MPH speed limit on Duncombe Street, Bletchley.

Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated that the petition would be taken forward and assessed by the Council's Highway Engineers as to the suitability of the road for a 20 mph speed limit, which would include consultation with local residents.

CL24

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) Question from Jane Whild to Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing)

Jane Whild asked Councillor O'Neill what KPI's on gender equality does the Council have in place to address the recommendations from the Local Government Commission's 2017 Report titled 'Does Local Government Work for Women?'.

Councillor O'Neill indicated that she recognised that a lot needed to be done by both national and local government to help and support women politicians.

Councillor O'Neill was of the view that the Council was better than some others and outlined that the Labour Group comprised more women than men, this was reflected in the membership of the Cabinet and it appeared the other political groups were moving in a similar direction.

Councillor O'Neill referred to some work undertaken by Councillor Priestley last year to encourage women into politics, including an event held at the Civic Offices, and a mentoring scheme she had run for young women who wanted to get involved in local politics.

Councillor O'Neill suggested that the Council should take a further look at the recommendations arising from the report, check if any have been updated and also look at the report prepared by the Labour Group on the Local Government Association on parental leave before bringing a motion for debate by Council.

Jane Whild, as a supplementary question, suggested that the Council should also take account of the Local Government Association's Tool Kit, issued in March 2017, and titled '21st Century Councils' which has the objective of supporting women, parents and carers to become local politicians.

- (b) Question from David Morgan to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Planning and Transport)

David Morgan, noting that within residential estates some cars were regularly parked along streets which forced pedestrians to walk into the centre of the street, asked Councillor Gowans how did the Council plan to encourage considerate and lawful parking, particularly within residential areas.

Councillor Gowans indicated that the Council had decriminalised parking powers, which meant that the Council was able to issue Penalty Charge Notices to offending vehicles where Traffic Regulation Orders were in place. Regular patrols were undertaken around the Borough, however, if there were locations where issues were occurring regularly then these should be reported to the Council so that intensive enforcement action could be undertaken. If there were no Traffic Regulation Orders in place (i.e. no signs or lines) these instances should be reported to the police.

Councillor Gowans suggested that if there were areas that were suffering regular issues where there were no Traffic Orders in place, these could be reported to the Council so the Council could investigate whether the implementation of a Traffic Order would be feasible.

Councillor Gowans also pointed out that Residents could apply to the Council to activate a verge and pavement parking ban in their local area. However, a ban wasn't applied as a matter of course because there were areas where parking on verges and pavements could be done in a manner that didn't cause inconvenience to pedestrians and a degree of pavement or verge parking was necessary to ensure that parked cars did not disrupt traffic flows.

David Morgan suggested that the main issues were a lack of awareness amongst drivers, drivers showing a lack of thought and a lack of alternative efficient public transport.

David Morgan, recognising that the Council had a vision for a future mass transportation system, asked Councillor Gowans as a supplementary question, how the Council was going to tackle the current problems and encourage people to embrace mass transportation.

Councillor Gowans, recognising the need to take action to address the problems, referred to the Council's Mobility Strategy which encouraged model shift and the Council's aspiration to make bus travel for the under 30 years of age free of charge.

- (c) Question from Emma Mist to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation)

Emma Mist asked if residents should be entitled to a Council Tax rebate if they paid a maintenance charge to a third party for looking after the housing estate, as she believed this was an unfair cost and residents were paying twice.

Councillor Marland, in Councillor Middleton's absence, indicated that while having sympathy with residents, the land was in private ownership and generally management companies charged for the maintenance of the land.

Councillor Marland further indicated that the Council would be debating the issue later with a view to possibly taking measures to prevent such arrangements.

Emma Mist, as a supplementary question, asked Councillor Marland why were Bovis residents on Whitehouse exempt from paying the maintenance charges and why were there so many different management companies across Whitehouse as it created so much disparity in relation to costs to the residents and also the standard of cleanliness.

Councillor Marland indicated that some developers chose to set up management companies, others transferred the land to the Council, while others maintained the land using a legacy fee from the sale of the property.

- (d) Question from Tobias Mist to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Tobias Mist asked Councillor Darlington why could not each household be allocated a wheelie bin to help maintain the cleanliness of estates such as Whitehouse, as the use of black plastic sacks often caused issues with pests and vermin ripping bags open to get at food waste and dragging it across estates such as Whitehouse.

Councillor Darlington recognised that many people moving into Milton Keynes from other local authority areas were used to having wheelie bins for their waste.

Councillor Darlington indicated that the Council had not consulted on methods of waste collection since 2005/06, when there was considerable opposition to wheelie bins, but as the current waste collection contract was coming to an end it was intended to again consult on waste collection methods.

Councillor Darlington also indicated that refuse collectors, as part of the contract, were required to clear up waste from split sacks and if this wasn't happening it should be reported to the Council.

(e) Question from Alderman Paul Bartlett to Councillor Nolan
(Cabinet member for Children and Families)

Alderman Bartlett asked Councillor Nolan to outline the cost of providing secondary school adaptations and related issues for Watling Academy at Fairfield's Primary School and when would the first pupil be in situ at the new campus.

Councillor Nolan indicated that Watling Academy would open on time in September 2020, as had always been planned, with 180 Year 7 pupils starting at the school. The Academy would open initially using space in Fairfield's Primary School, with the new campus being ready in spring 2021. By spring 2021 secondary school pupils in the Western Expansion Area would be in a state of the art £33m school building, with feeder schools in Fairfield's and Whitehouse also being housed in new buildings.

Councillor Nolan outlined that Fairfield's Primary School was being compensated in kind with the provision of extra facilities, which when the Watling Academy vacated the space would be used for early year's childcare and as a community space at evenings and weekends. As Tariff funding was being used for this purpose the net cost to the Council was zero and the community benefited from a school able to open on time, and in the medium term better early year's provision and a building for community use delivered early.

Councillor Nolan stated that the project was neither overspent nor delayed and she was proud that the schools were working together with to serve the needs of the local community.

Alderman Bartlett, as a supplementary question, asked Councillor Nolan if she could answer the original question and explain why children would be in temporary accommodation despite her categorical assurances that they wouldn't; when would the new Watling Academy buildings be opened; and why was the project behind schedule.

Councillor Nolan indicated that she thought that Alderman Bartlett's statements were not only trying to score party political points, but were also misleading and causing unnecessary concern and confusion which was unhelpful and ignored the fact that by spring 2021 secondary school pupils in the Western Expansion Area would be in a new £33m state of the art school building having come from feeder schools also benefiting from new buildings, all of which were delivered on time and on budget.

- (f) Question from Charlotte Hall (Vice Chair - Old Woughton Parish Council) to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Charlotte Hall, in a written question to Councillor Marland, noting regard to Traveller Encampments that there were priority areas identified and monies set-aside for the initial remedial and preventative works, asked what was the situation regarding the second tier of 'sensitive area' in which the old village of Woughton sits, when would the co-ordinated approach (working in partnership with Parishes) take place, what was proposed going forwards and who were the key officers or councillors responsible for this matter.

Councillor Marland indicated that incursions were down significantly and the Council was still undertaking more work and would be undertaking engagement with parish councils once the initial run of works had been completed in line with agreed priorities.

With regard to Old Woughton Councillor Marland outlined that there had been three incursions, one on the sports field off Newport Road, one in the car park at the sports ground and the third was on a Parks Trust paddock. Officers were sourcing a particular kind of bollard that would make access to the sports field difficult for vehicles towing a caravan, but would allow access for emergency vehicles. Officers were also reviewing quotes for barriers to the car park and The Parks Trust had re-secured the paddock where the incursion had taken place.

- (g) Question from Alan Francis to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Planning and Transport)

Alan Francis asked Councillor Gowans when would the Council sort out the delays to bus services in Station Square in the evening peaks, and when would the Council address the poor behaviour by car drivers, or provide a lane for buses to enter the Square without getting held up.

Councillor Gowans, recognising that the Station Forecourt was a busy area with lots of demand on space, indicated that the Council was currently constructing a new multi-storey car park adjacent to the station building, due to open early 2020. The ground floor of the car park would include dedicated

space for pick-up and drop-off for cars and private hire vehicles. Vehicles would be encouraged to use this area through signage as an alternative to Station Square and so should help reduce congestion in the Square.

Councillor Gowans explained that in the longer term the Council was working with Milton Keynes Development Partnership to develop a masterplan for the future of Station Square, options were being worked up with stakeholders for future public consultation.

Councillor Gowans stated that the importance of reliable bus services was also fully recognised by the Council and in addition to addressing the challenges in Station Square, the Council was in the process of delivering an Urban Traffic Control System which would include the upgrade of traffic signals to detect and prioritise buses at various junctions within the city centre.

Alan Francis, noting that the measures outlined were projects with a lengthy lead in time asked Councillor Gowans, as a supplementary question, whether it was possible for the Council to take enforcement action against drivers of both private cars and private hire vehicles who contravened traffic regulation orders.

Alan Francis suggested that the enforcement action could be funded from the Parking Surplus.

Councillor Gowans thanked Alan Francis for the positive idea and indicated that he would take it forward and look at the feasibility.

CL25 FORMER COUNCILLOR KEVIN WILSON

Further to Minute CL05 of the Council's meeting held on 15 May 2019, the Council heard contributions from councillors, Aldermen, Alderwomen, a representative of Woughton Community Council and members of the public about former Councillor Kevin Wilson.

CL26 GETTING THE BEST VALUE FROM S106 OPPORTUNITIES

Councillor R Bradburn moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 12 March 2019, which was seconded by the Councillor P Geary:

“That the Infrastructure Policy and Programme Manager presents a 6 monthly report to Council on S106 funding so that all ward councillors are aware of what is happening in their areas.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

That the Infrastructure Policy and Programme Manager presents a 6 monthly report to Council on S106 funding so that all ward councillors are aware of what is happening in their areas.

CL27

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL PLAN 2016/2022

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 June 2019, which was seconded by Councillor Priestley:

“That the revised Council Plan 2016/2022 be approved.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried with 31 councillors voting in favour, 0 councillor voting against and 15 councillors abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED -

That the revised Council Plan 2016/2022 be approved.

CL28

MAKING THE RAVENSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Gowans moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 June 2019, which was seconded by Councillor P Geary:

“That the Council makes the Ravenstone Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Council makes the Ravenstone Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
2. That the high turnout at the referendum and the large number of residents voting in favour be recognised and Ravenstone Parish Council and all those involved in the successful outcome of the referendum be congratulated.

CL29

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

The Council agreed that Councillors' Questions should be dispensed with to allow debate on the Notices of Motions.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Councillor Gowans moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Townsend:

- “1. That the Council notes that:
 - (a) there are more than 50 types of product that are restricted by law;
 - (b) staff on the shop floor are expected to enforce these laws;
 - (c) all too often it is shop workers who pay the price in the form of violence, threats and verbal and physical abuse from customers; more than 250 shop workers are attacked every day just for doing their jobs;
 - (d) the Association of Convenience Stores say that challenging thieves and enforcing restrictions are the main triggers of abuse; and
 - (e) this abuse intensifies as Christmas approaches.
2. That the Council further notes that:
 - (a) the problem is on the rise, with the British Retail Consortium estimating that violence with injury against staff has doubled in recent years;
 - (b) despite campaigning the Government has failed to take action to protect shop workers by enacting a new law, creating a specific offence relating to assault on people who work in a face-to-face public role;
 - (c) employers and trade unions are united in campaigning for this greater protection; and
 - (d) USDAW campaign with an annual ‘Respect Week’ to raise awareness.
3. That the Council resolves to:
 - (a) support the Freedom From Fear campaign and Respect Week;
 - (b) establish a Charter for businesses to sign up to, pledging their support for the Freedom From Fear campaign;
 - (c) promote the Charter on the Council website and social media channels; and
 - (d) write to the Minister urging the Government to enact a new law to protect people who work face to face in a public role offering stronger protections to workers and tougher penalties against those who assault or threaten them.”

The Council heard from one member of the public during consideration of this item

In summing up Councillor Gowans recognised the potential impact on a workers mental health, as raised by the member of the public, and suggested that this important issue should also be addressed as part of the Charter for businesses.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried by acclamation

RESOLVED -

“1. That the Council notes that:

- (a) there are more than 50 types of product that are restricted by law;
- (b) staff on the shop floor are expected to enforce these laws;
- (c) all too often it is shop workers who pay the price in the form of violence, threats and verbal and physical abuse from customers; more than 250 shop workers are attacked every day just for doing their jobs;
- (d) the Association of Convenience Stores say that challenging thieves and enforcing restrictions are the main triggers of abuse; and
- (e) this abuse intensifies as Christmas approaches.

2. That the Council further notes that:

- (a) the problem is on the rise, with the British Retail Consortium estimating that violence with injury against staff has doubled in recent years;
- (b) despite campaigning the Government has failed to take action to protect shop workers by enacting a new law, creating a specific offence relating to assault on people who work in a face-to-face public role;
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- (d) USDAW campaign with an annual ‘Respect Week’ to raise awareness.

3. That the Council resolves to:

- (a) support the Freedom From Fear campaign and Respect Week;
- (b) establish a Charter for businesses to sign up to, pledging their support for the Freedom From Fear campaign;
- (c) promote the Charter on the Council website and social media channels; and

- (d) write to the Minister urging the Government to enact a new law to protect people who work face to face in a public role offering stronger protections to workers and tougher penalties against those who assault or threaten them.

CL31

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES IN MILTON KEYNES

Councillor Gilbert moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Marlow:

- “1. That the Council recognises that:
 - (a) Loughton faces parking pressures due to its proximity to Milton Keynes Central Station;
 - (b) such parking pressures are likely to increase as Milton Keynes continues to grow; and
 - (c) the Loughton Conservation Area warrants special consideration due to the geography of the lanes and lack of parking facilities.
- 2. That the Council reaffirms its commitment to working with residents and parish councillors in Loughton and elsewhere to manage parking pressures, including through the option of Controlled Parking Zones.
- 3. That the Council thanks the many Loughton residents who regularly make reports to enforcement teams.
- 4. That the Council welcomes the recent enforcement ‘blitzes’, but would like to see consistent enforcement through the year.
- 5. That the Council having regard to:
 - (a) Loughton residents’ concerns about inadequate enforcement, in spite of promises that this would improve following the introduction of the £25 permit charge;
 - (b) existing Council powers to audit and take action against misuse of permits; and
 - (c) the potential lost revenue, whether from drivers avoiding Station car parks or penalty charges not being issued;requests Cabinet to:
 - (a) work with Loughton residents, ward councillors and Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council on a plan to improve enforcement in the Controlled Parking Zones;
 - (b) use the introduction of electronic permits to regularly assess potential misuse of resident visitor permits, and to set out how the Council intends to use its powers to deal with any such misuse;

- (c) abolish the £25 permit charge;
- (d) routinely publish patrol times and penalty charge data to assist public scrutiny;
- (e) provide an update on timelines for the consultation on sub-zones, with realistic turnout and majority thresholds that can give residents confidence in the consultation process; and
- (f) to report back by the next Full Council on progress delivering the above and intended next steps.”

Councillor Brackenbury moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor R Bradburn and on which a recorded vote was requested:

- “1. That the title of the motion be amended by the deletion of the word ‘Loughton’ and the addition of the words ‘in Milton Keynes’ at the end of the title.
2. That in clause 1(a) the word ‘Loughton’ be deleted and replaced with the words ‘many residential areas’, the ‘s’ of ‘faces’ be deleted, the word ‘its’ be replaced by the word ‘their’ and the words ‘other central facilities and insufficient parking provided within the development’ added to the end of the clause.
3. That clause 1(c) be replaced by the words:
‘since the introduction of charges for permits, the Council has carried out resident consultations and given residents the opportunity to determine whether they wish a controlled parking zone to be introduced or retained in their area.’
4. That in clause 2 the words ‘in Loughton and elsewhere’ be deleted.
5. That clause 5(a) the word Loughton be deleted.
6. That in the second clause 5(a) the words ‘Loughton’ and ‘Loughton and Great Holm’ be deleted, an ‘s’ added to the word ‘Council’ and the words ‘where concerns are raised’ added to the end of the clause.
7. That in the second clause 5(c) the words ‘abolish the £25 permit charge’ be deleted and replaced with the words:
‘review across the Borough the £25 fee as part of the 2020/2021 budget process, within the context of the £150m of cuts required due to Conservative austerity measures”’.

The voting on the amendment was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Akter, Baume, Brackenbury, K Bradburn, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, Carr, Cryer-Whitehead, Darlington, Exon, Ferrans, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Long, Marklew, Marland, Miles, Minns, Montague, Petchey, Priestley, Reilly, Townsend, Trendall, Wales, Wallis and C Wilson (30)

AGAINST: Councillors Baines, Bint, Bowyer, P Geary, Gilbert, Green, D Hopkins, Lancaster, Marlow, McLean, Nazir, Raja and Rankine (13)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Crooks, A Geary and Nolan (3)

The amendment was declared carried.

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Council recognises that:
 - (a) many residential areas face parking pressures due to their proximity to Milton Keynes Central Station, other central facilities, and insufficient parking provided within the development.
 - (b) such parking pressures are likely to increase as Milton Keynes continues to grow; and
 - (c) since the introduction of charges for permits, the Council has carried out resident consultations and given residents the opportunity to determine whether they wish a controlled parking zone to be introduced or retained in their area.
2. That the Council reaffirms its commitment to working with residents and parish councillors to manage parking pressures, including through the option of Controlled Parking Zones.
3. That the Council thanks the many residents who regularly make reports to enforcement teams.
4. That the Council welcomes the recent enforcement 'blitzes', and the additional £25,000 put into the 2018-19 Council budget for parking enforcement, but would like to see consistent enforcement through the year.
5. That the Council having regard to:
 - (a) residents' concerns about inadequate enforcement, in spite of promises that this would improve following the introduction of the £25 permit charge;

- (b) existing Council powers to audit and take action against misuse of permits; and
- (c) the potential lost revenue, whether from drivers avoiding Station car parks or penalty charges not being issued;

requests Cabinet to:

- (a) work with residents, ward councillors and parish councils on a plan to improve enforcement in the Controlled Parking Zones where concerns are raised;
- (b) use the introduction of electronic permits to regularly assess potential misuse of resident visitor permits, and to set out how the Council intends to use its powers to deal with any such misuse;
- (c) review across the Borough the £25 fee as part of the 2020/2021 budget process, within the context of the £150m of cuts required due to Conservative austerity measures; and
- (d) routinely publish patrol times and penalty charge data to assist public scrutiny;
- (e) provide an update on timelines for the consultation on subzones, with realistic turnout and majority thresholds that can give residents confidence in the consultation process; and
- (f) to report back by the next Full Council on progress delivering the above and intended next steps.

CL32

**PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN NEW HOUSING ESTATES
(‘FLEECEHOLD’)**

Councillor P Geary moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Carr:

“1. That the Council

- (a) notes the practice (referred to colloquially as ‘fleecehold’) whereby areas of public open space in new housing estates are passed over to private management companies chosen (or owned) by developers with the right for the management company to levy a service charge for the maintenance of the public open space on the residents who have purchased properties on these estates;
- (b) notes that this is done to enable developers to avoid having to transfer the land to either the local authority, the local parish council or a stewardship body such as the Parks Trust together with a commuted sum payment to cover the future maintenance costs;

- (c) conscious that these management company service charges place a legal and financial encumbrance on the estate's residents who have no option but to pay (they cannot sell their properties if there is an outstanding payment due) notes that these charges can increase year on year notwithstanding inadequate maintenance or supervision of the subject land with little transparency on how the service charge rates are set or how the service charge payers can hold the management company to account;
 - (d) concerned that where public open space is transferred to private management companies, residents have limited influence over the way the public open space is managed, and that in some areas where public open space is already in the hands of management companies, residents are finding the management companies unresponsive and uncaring;
 - (e) notes that once transferred to a management company the public open space has become a private asset that can be bought and sold and will generate an income for the management company forever; and
 - (f) fearful that residents who pay an annual charge for the maintenance of such public open space may resent or actively discourage it being used by other non-residents thus jeopardising and fragmenting the wonderful network of interconnected greenspace we have in Milton Keynes which the Council would wish to see extended and made freely available to everyone as the city grows.
2. That the Council is mindful of the strength of public commitment to the continuation within any future expansion areas of the established successful models of ownership and maintenance of public open spaces and green areas in the existing areas of Milton Keynes.
 3. That the Council places on record its concern that the practice of developers transferring public areas and green spaces in new housing estates to private management companies is increasing within the city as evidenced in Broughton Leys, Redhouse Park, the Western Expansion Area (parts of both Areas 10 and 11), and elsewhere.
 4. That the Council acknowledges that its position as defined in Plan:MK Policy L4 (Public Open Space Provision in New Estates) leaves developers entirely open to make arrangements such as those described above, which are in stark contrast to how other open spaces in the city are managed by the Council itself, parish councils or the Parks Trust.

5. That the Council calls upon the Cabinet:
- (a) to state publicly its preference, and use all powers at its disposal, to ensure that future public open space in new housing developments is transferred to either Milton Keynes Council, parish councils or the Parks Trust in line with the Cabinet paper of February 2019 'Future Landscaping Transformation Aspirations'; and
 - (b) to resolve that in areas being developed where the Council (and/or Milton Keynes Development Partnership) have a direct involvement through ownership of some or all of the land, e.g. Tickford Fields and Campbell Park North, the public open space will not be transferred to management companies but will be owned freehold by the Council and management arrangements be put in place with either the relevant parish council or The Parks Trust, reflecting the established successful models of ownership and maintenance of public open space in the existing areas of Milton Keynes."

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

- "1. That the Council
- (a) notes the practice (referred to colloquially as 'fleecehold') whereby areas of public open space in new housing estates are passed over to private management companies chosen (or owned) by developers with the right for the management company to levy a service charge for the maintenance of the public open space on the residents who have purchased properties on these estates;
 - (b) notes that this is done to enable developers to avoid having to transfer the land to either the local authority, the local parish council or a stewardship body such as the Parks Trust together with a commuted sum payment to cover the future maintenance costs;
 - (c) conscious that these management company service charges place a legal and financial encumbrance on the estate's residents who have no option but to pay (they cannot sell their properties if there is an outstanding payment due) notes that these charges can increase year on year notwithstanding inadequate maintenance or supervision of the subject land with little transparency on how the service charge rates are set or how the service charge payers can hold the management company to account;

- (d) concerned that where public open space is transferred to private management companies, residents have limited influence over the way the public open space is managed, and that in some areas where public open space is already in the hands of management companies, residents are finding the management companies unresponsive and uncaring;
 - (e) notes that once transferred to a management company the public open space has become a private asset that can be bought and sold and will generate an income for the management company forever; and
 - (f) fearful that residents who pay an annual charge for the maintenance of such public open space may resent or actively discourage it being used by other non-residents thus jeopardising and fragmenting the wonderful network of interconnected greenspace we have in Milton Keynes which the Council would wish to see extended and made freely available to everyone as the city grows.
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 4. That the Council acknowledges that its position as defined in Plan:MK Policy L4 (Public Open Space Provision in New Estates) leaves developers entirely open to make arrangements such as those described above, which are in stark contrast to how other open spaces in the city are managed by the Council itself, parish councils or the Parks Trust.
 5. That the Council calls upon the Cabinet:
 - (a) to state publicly its preference, and use all powers at its disposal, to ensure that future public open space in new housing developments is transferred to either Milton Keynes Council, parish councils or the Parks Trust in line with the Cabinet paper of February 2019 'Future Landscaping Transformation Aspirations'; and

- (b) to resolve that in areas being developed where the Council (and/or Milton Keynes Development Partnership) have a direct involvement through ownership of some or all of the land, e.g. Tickford Fields and Campbell Park North, the public open space will not be transferred to management companies but will be owned freehold by the Council and management arrangements be put in place with either the relevant parish council or The Parks Trust, reflecting the established successful models of ownership and maintenance of public open space in the existing areas of Milton Keynes.”

CL33 WHEELIE BINS

The Council noted that the motion had been moved to a later meeting.

CL34 CHILD POVERTY

The Council noted that the motion had been moved to a later meeting.

CL35 LEADER’S EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Council received the Leader’s Executive Scheme of Delegation which detailed the delegations to individual Cabinet Portfolio holders, noting the following changes announced by the Leader:

- (a) The deletion of Libraries and Leisure from the Economic Growth and Community Partnerships portfolio;
- (b) The addition of Flooding to the Public Realm Portfolio;
- (c) The removal of the ‘To consider proposals for establishing or closing a school’ from the ‘Matters reserved within this portfolio to the Cabinet’ section of the Housing and Regeneration portfolio;
- (d) The addition of ‘Power to close and open schools’ to the ‘Matters reserved within this portfolio to the Cabinet member’ section of the Children and Families portfolio; and
- (e) The addition of Sport and Leisure to the Climate Change and Sustainability portfolio.

CL36 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

The Council noted that, in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.4, the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, were not used during the period 9 March 2019 to 31 May 2019.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.50 PM

Report considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel – 25 June 2019

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE MILTON KEYNES CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 2018/19

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel: Councillor Miles

Author and contact:

Joanne Rabbitte - Head of Delivery:
Corporate Parenting Service, Children and
Families - Tel: 01908 253473

Executive Summary:

The Corporate Parenting Panel oversees how the Council fulfils its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent to Milton Keynes' children and young people in care and care leavers. Corporate Parenting Panel is a Committee of the Council and not part of either the Cabinet or Scrutiny arrangements as such. This annual report provides Councillors, all of whom are "Corporate Parents", with information about our children and young people and summarises the Panel's work during the Council year 2018/19. The report also explains how the Panel have engaged with young people during the year and plans to develop this in 2019/20.

Councillors are invited to make suggestions about which issues they as Corporate Parents would like the Panel to address, as well as any ways in which they can actively promote the needs of these young people within their council work and activity.

[NB the Annex to this report, detailing year end key information about Milton Keynes children and young people in care and Care Leavers, is attached.]

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the report be received and Councillors ensure their personal awareness and responsibilities of the needs of the Children and Young People for whom they are Corporate Parents;
- 1.2 That the report and the work undertaken on their behalf in 2018/19 by members of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted; and
- 1.3 That the emerging agenda for the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel in 2019/20 be noted.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Essential information for all Corporate Parents about the children and young people living in and leaving Milton Keynes Council Care is included in the Annex to this report. [See note in executive summary.]
- 2.2 Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel has met formally with Panel members and officers on four occasions in the past year. The Panel members were Councillors Shammi Akter, Marie Bradburn, Anthony Brown, David Brunning, Peter Canning, Anne Clancy and Victoria Hopkins.

- 2.3 The Panel has been chaired by Councillor Norman Miles, with the support of the two vice-chairs, Councillors Marie Bradburn and Victoria Hopkins. The Cabinet member for Children and Families also attended. Members have also visited the council's children's homes and attended several social events with children, staff and parents/carers. Members have also met with operational staff in the Children in Care, Care Leaving and Fostering and Adoption teams and have availed of shadowing opportunities with practitioners in order to gain better insight and understanding into these services.
- 2.4 During the year the Panel has received, considered and discussed reports from professionals about a number of priority issues for Milton Keynes Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers and was kept informed in regard to the progress and indicators that guide our success.
- 2.5 The key issues discussed at Panel were:

2.6 **Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer**

The Panel considered the Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report 2017-18 which noted that there was a requirement for the service to provide an annual report for the scrutiny and consideration of the Corporate Parenting Panel which should identify good practice and highlight issues for further development.

Since April 2016 the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and Child Protection Co-ordinator (CPC) functions at the Council had been combined. Those occupying the roles are now known as Independent Chairs. Each Independent Chair manages a combined caseload of children who were looked after, and children subject to child protection plans. Independent Chairs were also required to Chair a range of complex meetings that included Childcare Reviews, Child Protection Conferences, Disruption Meetings, Complex Strategy Meetings and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) strategy meetings for each looked after child.

2.7 **Vision for Milton Keynes Children in Care and Care Leavers**

The Panel considered a presentation from the Service Director of Children and Families about the future vision for the Children in Care and Care Leavers Service.

The Service Director indicated a drive for services to be "Good" needed to be achieved in all areas to ensure the ambition and vision is understood. The presentation reflected the strengths and weaknesses of the service from an officer's perspective and could be considered as part of an audit process of certain themes.

The Service Director indicated that areas that could raise questions were the numbers of social workers who had high work levels and Panel Members could challenge that caseloads were manageable and not take on in excess of 18-19 children per social worker.

Current data showed that the average case load for the Corporate Parenting teams in January 2018 was 19.4 which are high. Another area of concern that was highlighted was the timeliness of Health Assessments. The Service Director indicated that whilst the Health Assessments in Milton Keynes were above the national average, they were still not yet good enough. An area of particular concern was Dental Checks and Immunisations. The data evidenced, for example, 12% of Children in Care were not getting timely dental checks. Additionally 13% were not getting timely immunisations.

The Service Director also indicated that the Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel could learn from the four local authorities who had achieved 'Outstanding' OFSTED outcomes. The Service Director also indicated that whilst the Council was achieving the targets for Children In Care, the quality of the care offer for each child needed to be challenged. The care offer for care leavers also needed to be clarified.

The Service Director indicated that the service was proud that 75% over Children in Care were in foster care, and many with family and friends, even if they were slightly out of area. However, although there was a huge increase in the numbers of family and friends as foster carers, which provided stability to young people, officers need to ensure that the training of the family and friends foster carers met the highest standards.

2.8 Milton Keynes Children in Care Annual Health Report 2017/18

The Panel received the Annual Health Report that had been produced to provide an overview of the statutory health services provided to Milton Keynes Children in Care from April 2017 to March 2018.

The aim of the Annual Health Report is to provide assurance to a number of stakeholders including Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and Milton Keynes Council that Central and North West London Milton Keynes NHS Trust.

The Consultant Community Paediatrician (Designated Doctor for Children in Care) summarised the main concerns outlined in the report:

- Delayed Initial Health Assessments (IHA) due to challenges in obtaining parental consent in a timely manner; missed appointments.

However, in comparison with neighbouring local authorities the percentage of IHA's being achieved on time was positive.

- Immunisation completion remained high in Milton Keynes however there is room for improvement; some young people and parents refused immunisations such as MMR's to be administered; immunisations of Unaccompanied Young Asylum Seeking children are carried out under Health Protection Agency (HPA) guidelines for 'Incomplete or Unknown Immunisation Status'.

- Although dental checks statistics in Milton Keynes remained higher than the national average, there were challenges with young people refusing dental appointments despite additional support. This support included referrals to specialist dental services. It was also anticipated that improvements in capturing data robustly would assist in improving this indicator.

2.9 Milton Keynes Council Adoption Agency Annual Report 2017-18

The Panel considered the Adoption Agency Officers Annual Report 2017-18. This provided a detailed analysis of the Milton Keynes Adoption Service in relation to children's and adopters adoption journeys between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017. The report also included information about post adoption support, non-agency adoptions; inter country adoptions, work with birthparents and adoptive parents and the work of the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

The Panel also was also updated on the progress of the establishment of a regional adoption agency which aligned Milton Keynes, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough in a strategic partnership to amalgamate their adoption services into a single integrated service, the planned launch date being 1 April 2019.

Key achievements in 2017-18 were an increase in the number of children with a plan of adoption and adoption orders granted for Children in Care. The setting up of the Regional Adoption Agency was timely as widened the catchment area of potential adopters and supported the Council to achieve its target of a minimum of 21 Adoption orders per annum.

2.10 Milton Keynes Council Adoption Agency Six Monthly Report 1 April – 30 September 2019

The Panel also considered the Adoption Service six monthly report which summarised the data for the period and indicated that the plans for the implementation of the RAA were on track. The Panel learned that the Service had appointed a new external Fostering and Adoption Panel Advisor which had brought increased rigour to the quality assurance process.

2.11 Milton Keynes Council Fostering Service Annual Report 2017-18

The Panel considered the Council's Fostering Service Annual Report 2017-18 which provided summary information on activity in the service and panel was asked to note that the report was linked to the Council's sufficiency duty under S22(g) of the Children Act (1989) and statutory guidance on 'Sufficiency' issued in 2010.

Overall, the picture in Milton Keynes with regard to placements for children in care and care leavers was of a good and improving performance. The numbers of children who were Looked After had remained below national rates, despite an increasing local child population.

The number and the percentage of Children in Care in in-house fostering, as compared to those being fostered by Independent Fostering Agencies, was increasing and the number of Children in Care placed in kinship foster care (with family and friends) was also increasing. The Panel was informed that the area of weaknesses identified in the 2016-17 annual report regarding household reviews was now being rectified with additional resources having been sourced.

2.12 Milton Keynes Council Fostering Service Six Monthly Report 1 April – 30 September 2019

The Panel also considered the Fostering Service Regulation 35 report which is a legal requirement. The Panel considered the data and targets that had been achieved, in particular that there was a growing number of kinship fostering households, which was where friends or family were fostering a young person under the Fostering Regulations. The trend was also linked to the increased number of children leaving care by way of a Special Guardianship Order.

The Panel were given an update on the Fostering Service development plan and the fact that the review of the staffing structure had been completed that created two Fostering Teams; one team concentrates on the recruitment assessment and preparation of carers and the other is concerned with the supervision of carers post approval by the Fostering and Adoption Panel. Additionally, a new role has been created, that of Fostering Independent Reviewing Officer. It was anticipated that the change will bring greater focus on quality and adherence to regulations and National Minimum Standards.

With reference to the recruitment of Foster Carers, the Panel was informed that this had slowed down during the staffing review but a plan is in place to refresh the Marketing and Communications Strategy.

2.13 Milton Keynes Virtual School Provisional Results

The Virtual School Head Teacher presented the provisional results for Children in Care at the Virtual School for 2017-18 and told the Panel that every child is known in terms of attainment and development and was able to monitor any changes very quickly. The Virtual School Head Teacher also indicated that:

- Personal Education plans (PEP's) were carried out from the age of two years and a virtual school team member or social worker was present when the plans were written and would help schools with ideas to improve;
- Key Stage I writing has been a focus although the number of children within this cohort was small at 3. Key Stage II results had remained the same and the team were encouraged that children were going into senior schools with the ability to attain. The figure was an improvement to 32% from two years ago for "Expected Standard of Reading, Writing and Maths when it was 11%;

- GCSE results, one young person had achieved an A* in Arabic (first language). A cohort of 28 had entered and managed the new GCSE format well. Many achieved good results in science subjects which were not reported; and
- With reference those Children in Care Not in Education or Training (NEET), the Council had robust systems in place to place Looked After Children but it was more challenging when a Looked After Child was placed out of area as they did not get priority in other areas.

Additionally the team have a strong relationship with the Youth Faculty and meet regularly to monitor those who were NEET. Other Pathways are being developed and all staff knew the details of each Child in Care Not in Education or Training.

2.14 **Milton Keynes Virtual School Annual Report 2018/19**

The Panel considered the Annual Report from the Virtual School Head Teacher, who reported that it was anticipated that the Executive Summary would be provided for the next meeting of the Panel in June 2019 giving details following end of year examination results.

The Panel heard that improvements had been made to procedures that included liaison with schools to provide enhanced support for Looked After Children had improved.

The Virtual Head Teacher summarised that she had experienced difficulties in providing additional support and funding for post year 11, to assist with the transition period to college and/or other studying for young people in care. She also indicated that it was problematic to apply for funding for this purpose, but this was also a national issue.

It was noted that a young person in care from Milton Keynes had successfully secured a place at Oxbridge University to start studying Philosophy in summer 2019. This achievement was applauded by the Panel and was positive news.

2.15 **Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel**

Given that there have been changes in legislation and in particular the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which had further defined the role and expectations of corporate parents, the panel considered if the terms of reference should be reviewed with a view bringing them up to date. A Working group was established which met on two occasions. The new terms of reference extends membership to include a care experienced person, a foster carer, the Participation Officer and the Head of the Virtual School. All will attend all panel meetings in the future. The final draft version of the revised Terms of Reference were presented to Panel at the March 2019 and were adopted and referred to Council for Adoption.

2.16 Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy

The Panel considered a report in respect of Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy which summarised its ambitions that all Milton Keynes Council Young People in Care received constructive support and guidance to successfully achieve their ambitions.

During consideration of the report, Panel members indicated the following:

The shortened version of the Pledge should be disseminated to Social Workers for information and to use as part of their working role with young people;

The Strategy would be referred to throughout the 2019/20 Council year and an update brought to the Panel;

That the Strategy be referred to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for review and provide feedback to a future Panel meeting during 2019.

2.17 Care Leavers Offer in Milton Keynes

The Panel considered the Milton Keynes Care Leavers Offer in Milton Keynes which is a statutory requirement under the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Care Leavers Offer included the right to have support from a Personal Advisor access up to date and impartial careers information, advice and guidance to support Care Leavers to make informed choices for their future.

The Panel members indicated that the Care Leavers Offer be signed by the Cabinet member for Children and Families, the Director of Children's Services and the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel.

2.18 Snapshot of Children's Services

The Panel requested that summary activity information be presented to the Panel on a quarterly basis which provided an analysis of any issues and trends in the service and included comparative data in relation to comparable local authorities. Two such reports were received in 2019-20.

The reports indicated that Milton Keynes Council was retaining stability and challenging national trends to reduce the numbers of children in care. The improvements were also linked to the Edge of Care Strategy which has helped to reduce the number of children coming into care.

2.19 Review Consultation on Milton Keynes Children in Care Council

The Panel received a presentation from the Participation Officer (Children's Social Care) in respect of Milton Keynes Children in Care Council – 2019 Review Consultation.

The review recognised that it was important to increase engagement and attract more Young People to be part of the Children in Care Council. The proposals included the following:

- a) Primary School aged activity days in holiday periods (5-10);
- b) Our Voice as Secondary Children in Care Council (11-16);
- c) A Young Adults Forum for 16+ (16-25);
- d) Create a constitution and Terms of Reference for the Children in Care Council with defined roles and expectations;
- e) Develop a training programme for the Children in Care Council which is age appropriate and supports their development as representatives of children in care and care leavers;
- f) Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children in Care Council to share a defined program of work and put in place systems to monitor and record impact;
- g) Develop a Policy on 'payment/incentives' including payments for requests for work from other parts of the service;
- h) Consider a 'Children in Care Trust Fund' for young people to apply for to use on participation;
- i) Create a transport policy for all young people who participate in Children in Care Council;
- j) Ensure the Pledge is communicated effectively to social workers, children and young people;
- k) Create a Steering Group to plan prioritise and monitor of progress of the Children in Care Council.

2.20 **Presentation by Young People - "World Skills UK Live" at the NEC, Birmingham**

The Panel received a presentation by young people supported by the Post 16 Improvement Officer (CLA), Virtual School) who informed the panel about their visit to World Skills Live at the NEC in Birmingham and indicated that the exhibition was very informative and had given them many different ideas of future career paths and the training and apprenticeships that were available to achieve these. There were interactive activities that they participated in that made the visit memorable and added to their enjoyment. These included Virtual Reality headsets and quizzes to match them with careers.

2.21 **Presentation by Young People - Sports and Well-Being Programme**

The Panel received a presentation from five Asylum Seeking young people who had taken part in activities at Caldecotte and Willen Lakes and at the Outward Bound Centre in Aberdovey, Wales. They told the Panel about how they were benefiting from the experiences that were organised as part of the Sports and Well Being Programme and the NEW2UK Group.

The group explained that most had only been resident in the UK for a maximum of 18 months, originated from different countries and they enjoyed opportunities to meet new friends in similar positions to themselves, take part and learn new skills in all the sporting activities that they had taken part in and visit other parts of the UK. Issues which the young people highlighted were the immigration process and not being able to speak English.

2.22 Milton Keynes Council Children in Care Pledge

The Panel received a presentation from five young people who introduced the Children in Care Pledge, answered questions from the Panel and requested that Pledge be agreed and signed by the Cabinet member for Children and Families, the Director of Children's Services and the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Panel members and Councillor Nolan, the responsible Cabinet Member for Children and Families, expressed their thanks to the young people for all their hard work in participating, presenting and undertaking the Pledge, whilst also presenting the Council with a real challenge.

The Panel agreed that the Pledge be signed.

Councillor Nolan, responsible Cabinet member for Children and Families indicated to the Panel that she would inform Cabinet of the Pledge in readiness for the 2019/20 Council year.

2.23 Celebration of Achievement

The Panel was informed that the council's celebration of achievement event was split in to three groups this year. It was anticipated that by splitting events by age and ability that events would be less formal and attract better attendance..

The first event was held for children with Special Needs and Disabilities on 31st October 2018 at Oxley Park Community Centre which was well-attended and included Councillors, families and carers. This evidenced the good, supportive relationships between carers and children.

The second event took place on Friday, 15th November 2018 at Safari MK. This was aimed at the Under 14 age group and was very much a family event with foster carers, parents and relatives in attendance. There was an excellent turnout with 72 children in attendance, the youngest of whom was five months old.

Awards and medals were presented by the Mayor, the Lead Member, the Chief Executive Officer, the acting Director of Children's Services and the Head of Delivery for Corporate Parenting Service.

The Panel was informed that a third event for the 15-25 year age group was planned for later in the year when it would no conflict with exams and study commitments.

A Carol Singing event organised by the Children in Care Youth Club with the Music Faculty took place in the Councillors Lounge area in the Civic Offices and all were invited on the 13 December 2018 and was well attended by children in care, carers, Officers and Members.

2.24 **Draft Work Plan 2019/20**

The format and content of the work plan was discussed by the panel. It was agreed that the panel will meet informally at 6pm so that members, young people, officers and carers can have the opportunity to interact before the formal meeting at 6.30pm.

The Head of Delivery for Corporate Parenting Service, Members, the Participation Officer and the Committee Manager will meet to discuss the progress of the plan prepare agenda prior to every meeting of the panel. In addition to the annual and half yearly service reports the key lines of inquiry for the coming year are Children Missing from Care; achieving permanence; young people not in education training or employment; the edge of care strategy; review of children's participation. A business case about the proposed Corporate Parenting week would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel in June 2019;

3. **Legal**

The Council's role as a Corporate Parent is governed by legislation (primarily the Children Act 1989), associated guidance and regulations and case law.

The Council's legal department provides clear advice as required by officers in their discharge of the council's corporate parenting responsibilities for individual children and young people.

4. **Other implications**

Y	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	Y	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Milton Keynes Children in Care (Looked After Children) and Care Leavers Key Data 2019/20

Annex: Year end key information about Milton Keynes Children and Young People in Care and Annual Data Set.

Headline Data

- ❑ Reduction in numbers of LAC over the last year, from 394 at March 2018 to 382 at March 2019*.
- ❑ There has been a continued reduction in children coming into care under a section 20 (voluntary) arrangement.
- ❑ There has been a trend towards younger LAC in the cohort.
- ❑ The % LAC that are placed more than 20 miles from home (outside the LA boundary) has continued to reduce, highlighting that local options have been used where possible.
- ❑ % Care leavers that are in Education, employment or training (EET) has dropped, however work has been done to reduce those not in EET for acceptable reasons by 10 % over the last 6 months.

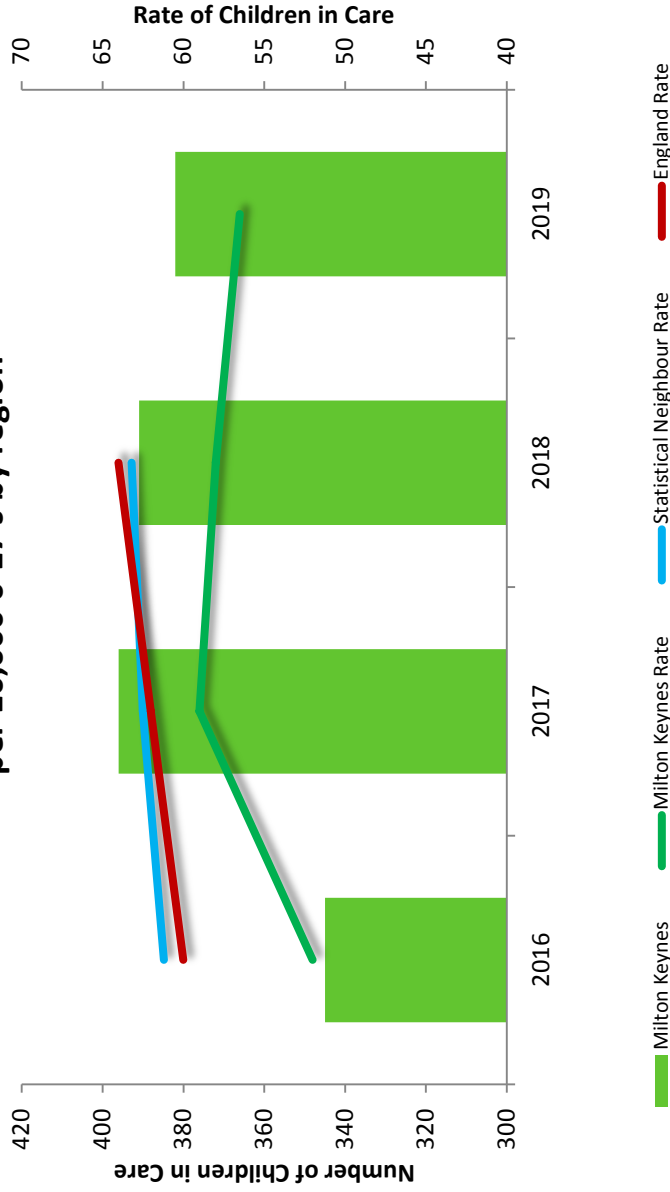
ANNEX

Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

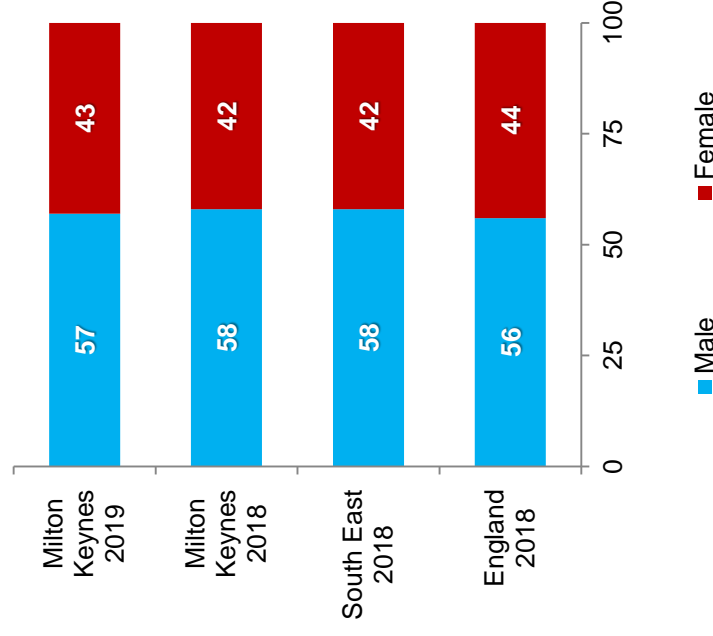
Who is in our Care?

Numbers and Rates of Looked After Children

Number of Milton Keynes Children in Care and Rates
per 10,000 0-17's by region



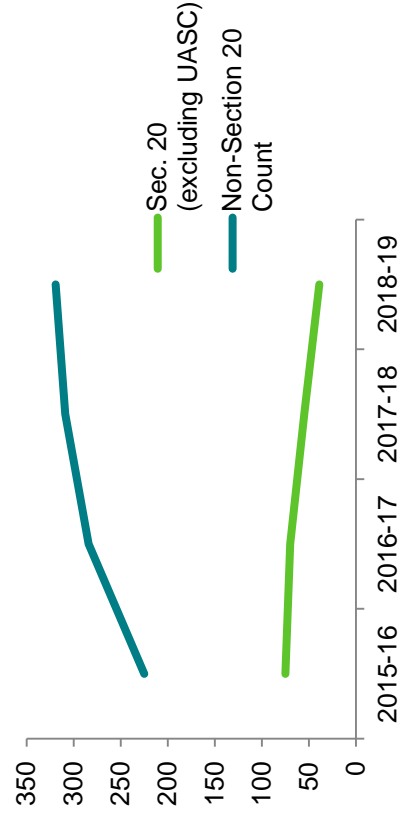
Gender split by %



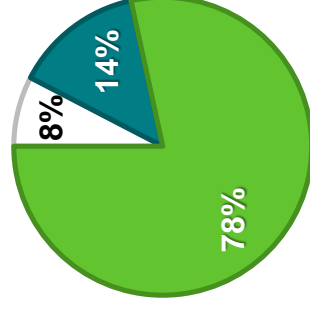
Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

Increases in children and young people in care through Court Proceedings

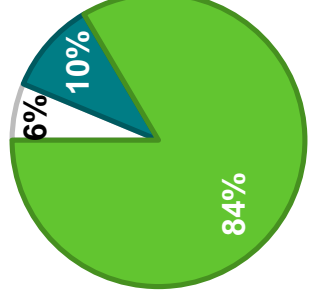
Year	Section 20 % (voluntary)	Non-Section 20 % (via Court Proceedings)	Section 20 Count	UASC	Sec. 20 (excluding UASC)	Non-Section 20 Count
2013-14	27.9%	72.1%	85	5	80	220
2014-15	32.4%	67.6%	110	25	85	230
2015-16	33.8%	66.2%	115	40	75	225
2016-17	28.1%	71.9%	111	41	70	284
2017-18	21.6%	78.4%	83	26	57	308
2018-19	16.5%	83.5%	63	24	39	319



2017-18



2018-19

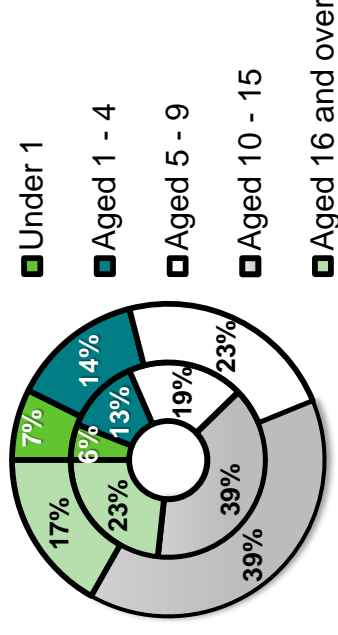


Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

Age Groupings

Age Group	MK 2017 %	MK 2018 %	England 2018%	MK 2019 %
Under 1	4	6	6	7
Aged 1 - 4	10	14	13	14
Aged 5 - 9	19	21	19	23
Aged 10 - 15	40	40	39	39
Aged 16 and over	26	19	23	17

Age breakdown for England 2018 (inner) and MK 2019 (outer) by %



Ethnic Background

*General population ethnic origin data only available for 0-19 from 2011 census, Ethpop.org provide predicted figures in 5 year increments

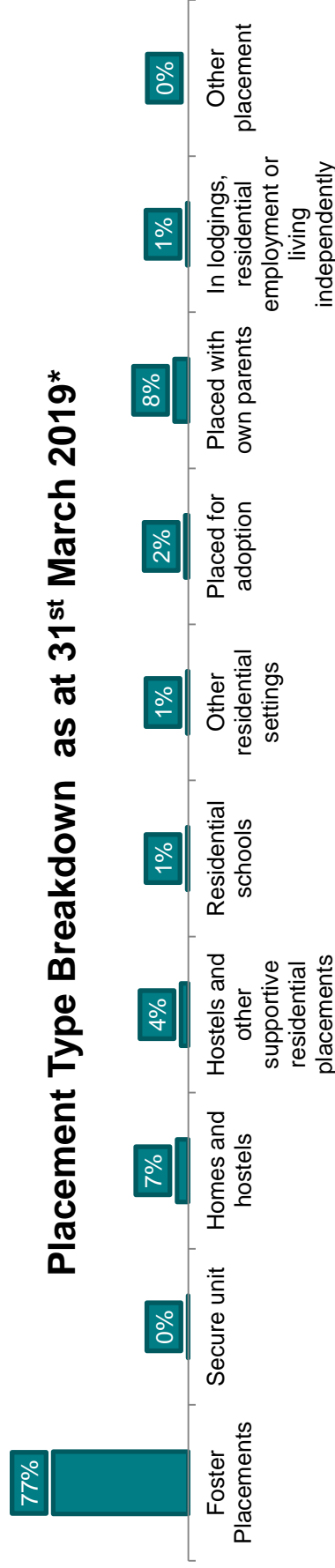
Ethnic Origin	MK LAC % 2018	MK LAC % 2019	MKC total 0-19 Population % 2020*	MK LAC % difference to total MKC 0-19 Population
White	63%	64%	64%	0%
Mixed	14%	16%	8%	8%
Asian / Asian British	7%	7%	13%	-6%
Black / Black British	13%	12%	13%	-1%
Other Ethnic Groups	4%	1%	1%	0%

Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

Who are our children and young people (CYP) living with?

Placement Types

Placement types	MK % 2018	England % 2018
Foster placements	78	73
Placed for adoption	1	3
Placement with parents	6	6
Other placement in the community	3	4
Secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation	11	11
Other residential settings	1	2
Residential schools	0	0

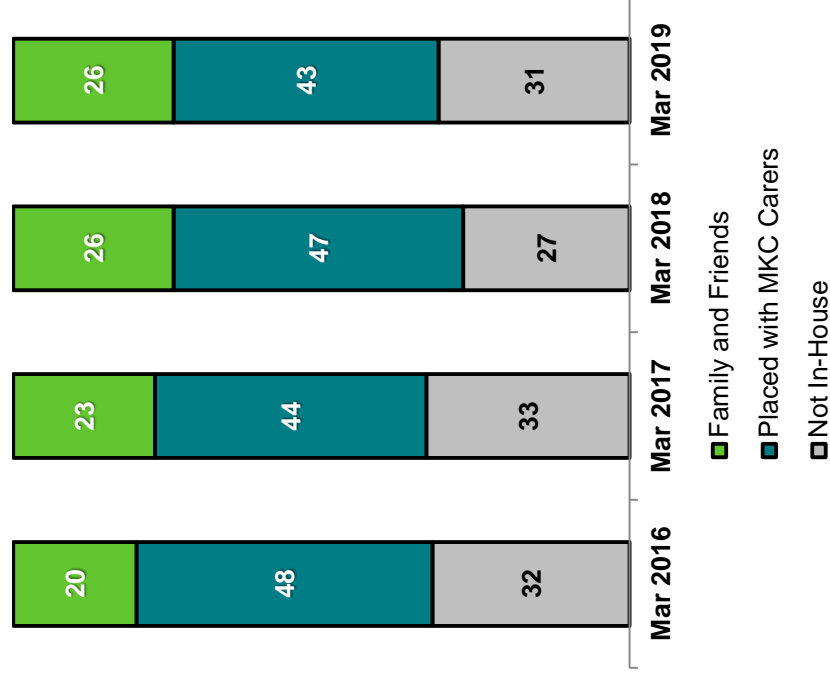


Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

Fostering

	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	% Change from Mar-18
Number of children in foster placements	317	303	294	-3.1%
Of which are placed with MKC carers	141	142	126	-4.0%
Of which are placed with family and friends	73	78	76	0.1%
% foster placement which are in-house	67.5	72.6	68.7	-3.9%

Fostering by Carer type %

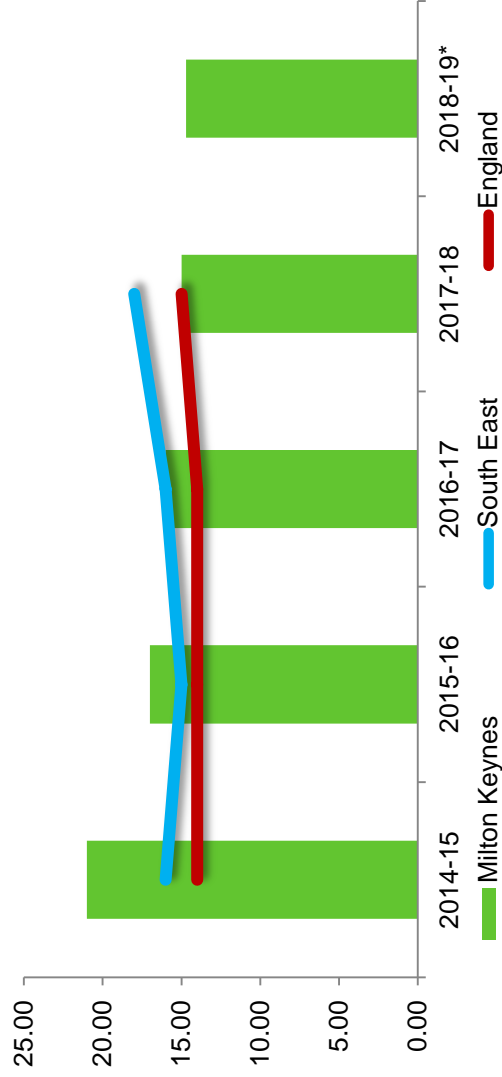


Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

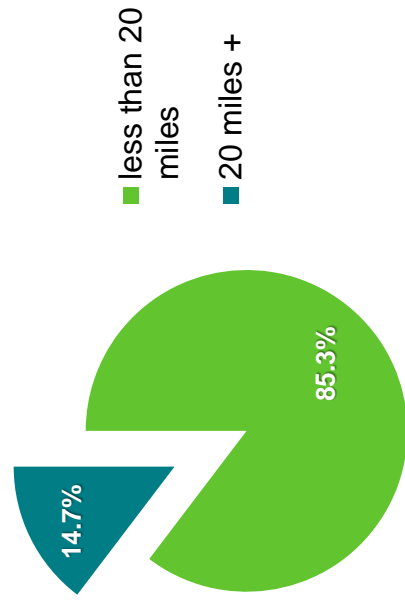
Where are our Young People Living?

% of children looked after, placed more than 20 miles from home - outside LA boundary

Region	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19*
Milton Keynes	21	17	16	15	15
South East	16	15	16	18	N/A
England	14	14	14	15	N/A



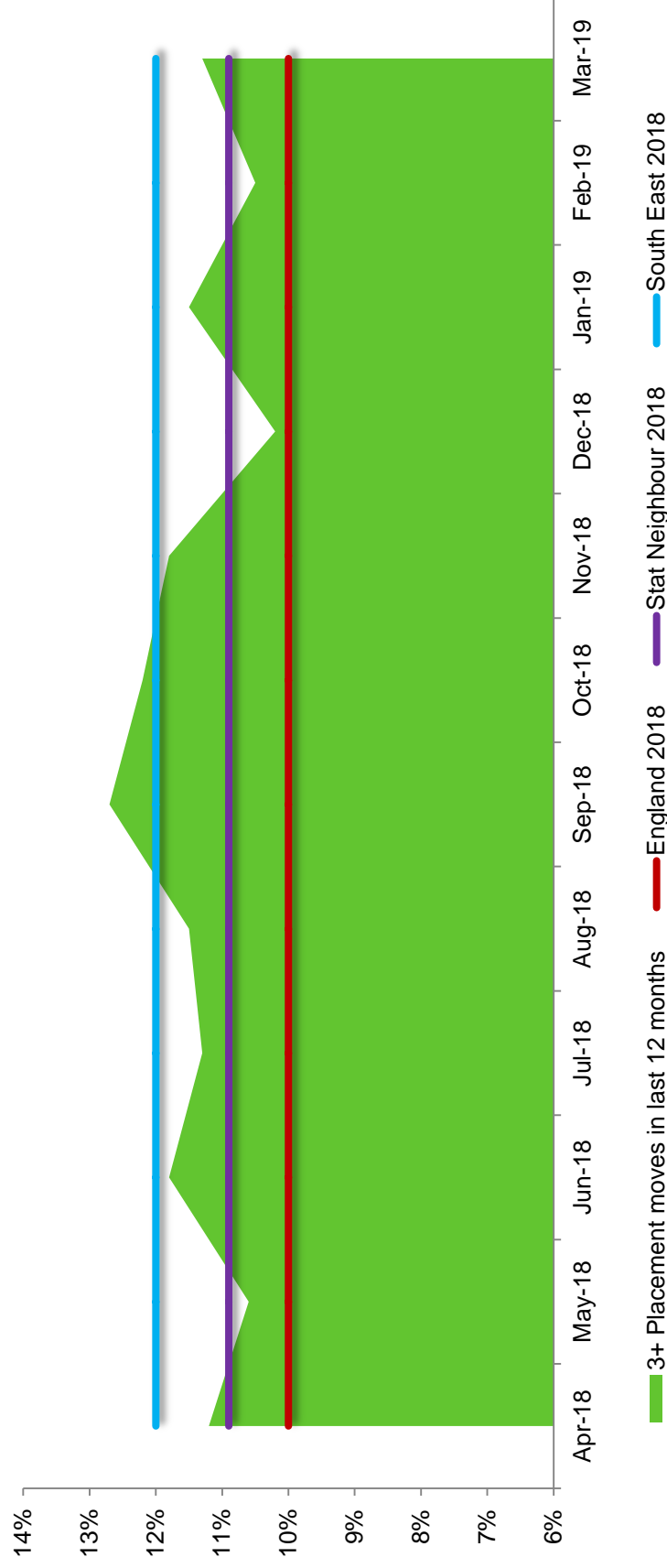
% Distance from home - March 2019*



Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

Providing stable homes for our children and young people

Percentage of LAC with 3 or more placements in 12 months



Milton Keynes' Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers Key Data 2018/19

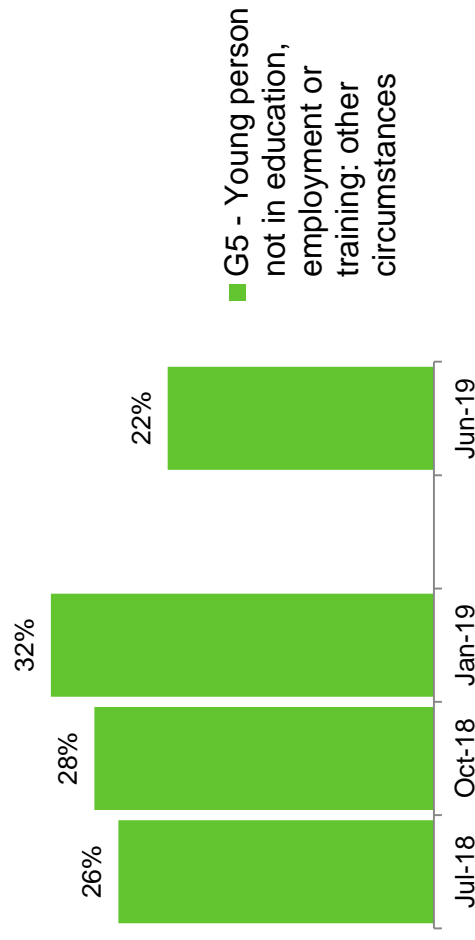
Leaving Care

Care Leavers – in suitable accommodation and in education, training or employment (where known)*

Milton Keynes Care Leavers	MK Mar 2017	MK Mar 2018	MK Mar 2019
Care leavers in suitable accommodation %	97	92	94
Care leavers in education, employment or training %	56	56	48

For care leavers being worked with, suitable accommodation % has increased since this time last year, however there has been a dip in the % in education, employment or training.

Those that are NEET have been of key focus due to the reduction, those NEET as a result of an avoidable factor e.g. excluding parenting, pregnancy or illness / disability have been reduced from over 30% at one point to around 22% by June 2019 as part of the focused review.



*The Care leaver percentages are shown based on where there is an active pathway plan. 'Suitable' is expected to mean safe, secure and affordable provision for young people.

Child Care Review Monitoring Reports – Q4 2018/19

Attendance and participation				
	Q1 18-19	Q2 18-19	Q3 18-19	Q4 18-19
YP's attendance	47%	54%	52%	↑ 63.6%
YP's participation	92%	84%	85%	↑ 95.0%
Mothers' attendance	47%	49%	44%	↓ 39.7%
Mothers' participation	63%	65%	61%	→ 60.6%
Fathers' attendance	27%	18%	19%	↑ 22.3%
Fathers' participation	42%	31%	33%	↑ 37.1%

Marked improvement in young peoples attendance and participation. Whilst there is an improvement in the participation and attendance in relation to fathers there has been a deterioration in the attendance of mothers.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Report Sponsor: Michael Bracey, Chief Executive

Executive Summary

Following the resignation of the current Deputy Chief Executive, a recruitment exercise was undertaken to appoint a new Deputy Chief Executive. The Senior Appointments Panel conducted final interviews on 6 June 2019 and an offer was made to Tracey Aldworth.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the starting salary of £127,000 be noted.
- 1.2 That the Annual salary on appointment of £127,000 be noted.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The resignation of the existing Deputy Chief Executive triggered a recruitment campaign and the formation of the Senior Appointments Panel.
- 2.2 A 2 day interview process was undertaken which involved staff, external stakeholders and councillors.
- 2.3 Following a rigorous process Tracey Aldworth was offered the role.
- 2.4 Where an offer in excess of £100k is made, this is reported to Full Council for information only.

3. Implications

3.1 Policy

Having a Deputy Chief Executive in place is fundamental to the organisations ability to deliver on the Council Plan.

3.2 Resources and Risk

None

3.3 Legal

None

3.4 Other Implications

N/A

Background Papers: None

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Report Sponsor: Michael Bracey, Chief Executive

Author and contact: Musrat Zaman (Head of Human Resources)

Executive Summary

The Council is recommended to appoint the Director – Law and Governance (Sharon Bridglalsingh) to the statutory roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Director – Law and Governance (Sharon Bridglalsingh) is appointed as the Council's Returning Officer in accordance with Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- 1.2 That the Director – Law and Governance (Sharon Bridglalsingh) be appointed as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer in accordance with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint one of its officers as Returning Officer for its elections and parish council elections. The designated person will also act as Acting Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections, Local Returning Officer for Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Counting Officer for any future referendums. The Act also requires the Council to designate one of its officers as Electoral Registration Officer.

The Returning Officer is an officer of the council but the role of the Returning Officer is a personal responsibility independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the council. The Returning Officer may appoint one or more persons to discharge all or any of his/her functions.
- 2.2 The Council's Chief Executive currently holds these roles. In Milton Keynes, the Chief Executive has recently carried out the statutory roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. In the past however, the role was held by a senior officer than the Chief Executive.
- 2.3 The arrangements vary from council to council. For example, In Buckinghamshire an Executive Director holds the Returning Officer role for the county whilst in Bedford Borough it is their Chief Executive.

- 2.4 Following the restructure of the corporate leadership team it is recommended that the Returning Officer statutory is moved from the Chief Executive to the Director. The Director is experienced in elections work, having been the Deputy Returning Officer for three years and the recommendation has the support of the Chief Executive.

3. Options

- 3.1 No change – This is an option for councillors to consider.

4. Implications

4.1 Resources and Risk

There are no additional financial implications. The position of Returning Officer carries with it fees which are determined from time to time in accordance with the Returning Officers Fees Order set by Parliament. The payment of the fees for local and ordinary parish elections is met by the Council. The cost of Parish By-Elections is met by the parish concerned. The cost of other national elections is met by the Government Department concerned.

N	Capital	Y	Revenue		Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.2 Legal

The Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Returning Officer and Electoral Services Officer, but has choice over which role includes this statutory role.