
Report to Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 8th April 2010

Subject: Annual Update of Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Report by: Head Of Social Policy

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report updates the Council on the progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy which was approved by Council in June 2009. As well as presenting the strategy, a commitment was given to provide an update of progress to the Council on an annual basis

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Council note the progress made to date by services and partners, whilst ensuring that identified gaps become the focus of action in the next year.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Successful Corporate Parenting depends upon having clear strategic leadership with elected members, and senior officers to the Council having a key role to play in ensuring that the outcomes and life chances of Looked After children and young people are maximised.
- 3.2. Being a good corporate parent means:
- Accepting responsibility for all children in the Council's care;
 - Keep meeting the needs of Look After Children and Young People as a high priority
 - Seek the same outcomes, any good parent would want for their own child.
- 3.3. There are four national expectations of local authorities and their partners in fulfilling their corporate parenting role, these are as follows. That the local authority will:
- Have an overarching plan for the Looked After children and young people, covering all of the services and support they can expect to receive,

- Ensure that the views of children in council care are taken account of,
 - Provide training and support, for those who have to act as the collective Corporate Parent;
 - Identify and share best practice in Corporate Parenting throughout the council area.
- 3.4. Clackmannanshire has a Corporate Parenting Strategy approved by Council and partners. A Champion, Councillor Sam Ovens, has been appointed and is active in the multi-agency Steering Group that drives forward this agenda.
 - 3.5. Recent inspections by external agencies such as the Social Work Inspection Agency, and Care Commission, has commented on the improvement in the service to Looked After and Accommodated young people in terms of assessment, planning and implementation of plans.
 - 3.6. Young people are involved in a consultation and development initiative called 'Meet The Bosses' where local authority agencies have made commitments to work towards identified areas of improvement such as employment, education, and housing.
 - 3.7. Further activity is however required around universal services provided by Community Learning and Development, and Sports Development. Discussions are ongoing in the hope of setting up referral processes and activities that target and include Looked After and Accommodated Young People. We know that a significant number of Looked After Young People are most likely to miss out on opportunities related to leisure, recreation and sport.
 - 3.8. In terms of Through and After Care the re-structuring of the Child Care Service in Social Work has included the creation of a specialist post which will dedicate its resources to the completion of pathway plans for care leavers and supporting them as they make the transition to adulthood.
 - 3.9. In terms of the responsibility for the local authority to take account of the views of our corporate children a great deal of work is ongoing in conjunction with colleagues in Educational Psychology in piloting on line information gathering. Results from this work will be available later in the year.
 - 3.10. Great efforts are also being made to increase the number of foster carers in Clackmannanshire and reduce reliance on external agency carers. There is now a dedicated post exclusively deployed to recruit new carers. By June we hope to have registered three new sets of carers increasing our potential placements by up to 6 children. Young People will therefore be given a greater potential to remain in their locality if received into care.
 - 3.11. A great deal of work is also being done by Housing Services to develop protocols for care leavers. In the last week a joint protocol has been agreed which will effectively remove young people from having to use Homelessness processes and procedures to obtain accommodation. In addition it agrees the principle that no care leaver will be left roofless while the local authority retains statutory duties in relation to the welfare of care leavers.

- 3.12. The attached report Appendix 1 details in full progress against the agreed action plan.
- 3.13. Summary - Good progress has been made towards improving the outcomes for young people in public care, although further work is required to ensure a consistent approach across all Council services.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The successful implementation of the Corporate Parent Strategy will make a valuable contribution to the sustainability of the communities of Clackmannanshire as young people are our most valuable resource for the future.
- 4.2. Providing better outcomes for the Looked After population will allow them the potential to contribute more to the material, ecological and moral fabric of our communities through offering a real stake in the future development of their community.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. There are no additional financial requirements in relation to the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. It requires all local authority services and key partners to work collaboratively and to prioritise the needs of the Looked After population to improve their outcomes in the areas of their lives where improvement is most needed.
- 5.3. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ✓

- 5.4. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ✓

5.5. Staffing

- 5.6. There are no additional staffing requirements.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please double click on the check box)

- The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
- Our communities are safer
- Vulnerable people and families are supported
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) Council Policies (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

- 8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
 Yes No

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy - Progress Report Mar 2010

11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)
 Yes ✓ (please list the documents below)

Sustainability Check List
 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2009-2012*(copies available in group rooms and on members' portal)*

Author(s)

| NAME | DESIGNATION | TEL NO / EXTENSION |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|
| Jim Burke | Senior Manager Child Care Social Services | 01259 225140 |

Approved by

| NAME | DESIGNATION | SIGNATURE |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Deirdre Cilliers | Head of Social Policy | |
| Grahame Blair | Director, Services to People | |

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY - PROGRESS REPORT MAR 2010

| 1. Priority: The inclusion of a commitment to Corporate Parenting. | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Target | Timescale | Contact | Progress |
| Establish the role of the Corporate Parent and ensure that all staff and elected members are working in the best interests of Looked After young people and care leavers. | March 2009 | | Strategy approved - launch and stakeholder event to be discussed. |
| Appoint a Children's Champion | Nov 2008 | | Champion appointed. |
| Establish a Corporate Parenting working group for Looked After children. | January 2009 | Jim Burke | Steering group established. |
| Evaluation of the action plan will be reported annually to Scrutiny Committee | March 2010 | Jim Burke | February update will form the basis of annual report. |
| All children are reviewed within appropriate timescales with young people encouraged to participate as fully as possible in their reviews. | Ongoing | Dominic Gillen/ Graham Devlin | See additional information for statistical analysis. |
| 2. Priority: The significant change in assessment and planning systems as part of the implementation of "Getting It Right For Every Child", and we need to ensure that the views of children and families are better taken account of in the new processes. | | | |
| HMIE/Care Commission. SWIA report that the care and welfare of young people are appropriate, stable and of good quality. | October 2010 | Jim Burke | SWIA follow up inspection ¹ has seen improvement. Good report on Residential Unit by Care Commission, also Fostering & Adoption inspections of Care Commission. http://clacksweb/council/ssperformance/ |

¹ See rear of document for details

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| | <p>A consultation exercise will be undertaken by Council Psychological Services with Looked After and accommodated young people.</p> | 2010 | Alison Russell | <p>As part of the Councils corporate parenting action plan the Service has been tasked with gathering the views of LAC young people. An on line survey has been developed for use with 10-16 year olds. This has been piloted with 2 young people and adaptations made to the survey following feedback. Computer assisted interviews will be used with younger children and those with ASN.</p> <p>Data gathering is planned to take place from April onwards and results of the survey available by August 2010.</p> |
| | <p>Establish protocols between all parties to ensure Looked After children and care leavers are visible and provided support at the appropriate time, particularly at points of transition e.g. leaving school/care, moving from primary to secondary etc.</p> | October 2010 | Kaye Smith/ Yvonne Wright | <p>Work ongoing around raising awareness with LAAC young people to identify LAAC teachers and establish links and contacts.</p> <p>The Psychological Service, together with designated officers in schools, is working to establish procedures in schools for identification, reviewing and monitoring the needs of LAC pupils. (Following the revision of the ASL act, Local Authorities are required to make arrangements to ensure that the Additional Support Needs of LAC children are identified and action taken to meet the needs identified.)</p> <p>The Psychological Service is also developing , together with Child Care services and the Reporter to the Children's Panel, new procedures to try to ensure that all children and young people who are currently LAC/LAAC are made known to the service in order that psychologists can be involved, where agreed and appropriate, in relevant decision making.</p> <p>A LAAC Education Group has recently been established and will include representatives from Secondary School Support, Transition, Educational Psychology, Child Care and service users.</p> |
| | <p>75% of all children over the age of 8 should be encouraged to complete a 'Having Your Say' form for Childcare reviews that expresses the young persons feeling and views about their support from the local authority and partners.</p> | March 2010 | Child Care Reviewing Officers | <p>Discussion ongoing with reviewing officers to collate this information and imbed it into formal performance monitoring process within Child Care.</p> |
| | Target | Timescale | Contact | Progress |

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| | The views of Looked After young people and care leavers are heard and listened to, and when decisions are made their views are taken into account. | August 2009 | Child Care Reviewing Officers | Discussion ongoing with reviewing officers to collate this information and imbed it into formal performance monitoring process within Child Care. |
| 3. Priority: A major focus on reducing the number of children placed out-with the authority | | | | |
| | 100% of children who leave care and are eligible for aftercare support will have a pathway plan. | October 2009 | Kaye Smith | See 2.4 for further details. |
| | Children have a maximum of 2 moves within a year of becoming accommodated. | Ongoing | Joan Lyle | Balanced Scorecard monitoring this target - below target. |
| | 5% Reduction in foster placements out with Clackmannanshire | March 2010 | Ilene Easdon Hynds | Child Care service has recruited a worker for the fostering and adoption team whose aim is to recruit new carers and reduce the number of children in private agency placements. |
| 4. Priority: A commitment to providing full time educational provision for all Looked After children | | | | |
| | Continue to take action to improve young people's attainments. Including monitoring and tracking of attendance, behaviour and progress being made by all pupils. Paying particular attention to boys and young people who are vulnerable and at risk of failure so that appropriate interventions can be planned and implemented to reduce such risk. | 2010 | Yvonne Wright | See 2.7 |
| | schools have in place strategies to ensure that Looked After young people are not disproportionately represented in poor attendance, exclusions, bullying and underachievement. | 2010 | Yvonne Wright | See 2.7 |
| | Continue to work to reduce the numbers of young people between the ages of 16 and 19 and school leavers who are not in education, employment or training. . ⁴ | 2010 | Craig Bendoris | The steady progress already reported within this agenda during the last few years in terms of more young people moving into positive post-school destinations will be difficult to sustain this year given the present national |

⁴ Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers <http://clacksweb/document/meeting/196/289/2791.pdf>

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| | | | | | economic downturn and the much reduced availability of employment opportunities for school leavers and young people generally. |
| | Target | Timescale | Contact | Progress | |
| | Continue to operate to the guidance in the Core Tasks for Designated Managers document published in 2008. (New responsibilities launched at seminar in Clacks in Feb 09). | Ongoing | Yvonne Wright | See 2.7 | |
| | 5. Priority: Greater and improved housing support for care leavers, including dedicated provision. | | | | |
| | Explore closer working arrangements between Housing and Child Care and implement recommendations. | November 2009 | Kenny Hutton | Work ongoing between Housing and Child Care to improve access to Housing. Draft protocol agreed and under discussion. Procedures drafted to be discussed. See 5.6 and 5.7 below. | |
| | Review Action For children Path management arrangements to ensure child care representation. | August 2009. | Kenny Hutton | Working group agreed and project brief also agreed. Full project plan and implementation plan under discussion. | |
| | Dedicated accommodation for two care leavers being provided from September 2009 | September 2009 | Kenny Hutton | Project in place and being monitored. | |
| | Review and report on projected accommodation needs of care leavers. | November 2009 | Kenny Hutton | Report was submitted to Housing SMT by Operations Manager (lettings) Aug 09. Housing then redrafted a procedure for managing letting of accommodation for Child Protection cases. Report also submitted and approved Feb 10 by Housing SMT. | |
| | Set up specialist accommodation project to meet identified needs. | 2011 | Kenny Hutton | Small group established to look at service specification. | |
| | Child care needs will be incorporated into local Housing strategy. | July 2010. | Kenny Hutton | Housing Needs and Demand Assessment draft circulated and consultation/issues stage due to start Spring 10. | |
| | Homeless policy amended and awaiting ratification by Council. Allocations policy review to begin in Nov 2009. | April 2010. | Kenny Hutton | Policy implemented/ homologated. | |

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| | Young people leaving care are able to access suitable accommodation without recourse to homelessness services. Put in place agreed effective joint working arrangements with clear procedures and effective resolution mechanisms. | November 2009. | Kenny Hutton | Protocol and procedures being developed between Housing and Child Care around young people leaving care. Child Care cases in allocations will be dealt with as special cases Band 1 with named officer in Housing responsible. (Francine Abercrombie) |
| | Staff working in housing services understand their additional responsibilities to looked after young people and care leavers. Frontline staff already undergone training organised by child care on child protection. To be rolled out to all staff. | December 2009 | Kenny Hutton | Management level meeting required possibly joint Housing/Childcare one off meeting to agree principles. Initial Service Manager meeting required. |
| 6. Priority: Enhanced support into employment and training, including opportunities within the Council | | | | |
| | Ensure that Looked After young people and care leavers are recognised as a priority within employment programmes and initiatives such as Clacks Works. | Ongoing. | Jane Adamson/ Wilson Lees | Employment opportunities within the Council are being explored specifically for Care Leavers, as well as other paid employment around the utilisation of skills to provide support to other LAAC such as befriending and advocacy. Work ongoing with 'Who Cares' to develop these initiatives. |
| | Care leaver careers destinations will be reported annually and appropriate year on year targets set. | March 2009 | Craig Bendoris | No information provided |
| 7. Priority: A dedicated health screening and planning process for all Looked After young people. | | | | |
| | Target | Timescale | Contact | Progress |
| | All Looked After and accommodated young people will have their health needs identified and an individual health plan agreed including registration with General Practitioner. This will be undertaken by the Well Chosen service within Health. ⁵ | Ongoing April 2010 | Kathy Pickles | Core Objective 2 of the Well Chosen Service states "Ongoing monitoring of database with aim to improving statistical information gathered relating to provision of health assessments, medical issues identified and implemented..... to ascertain levels of health needs, and service provision to meet need" |

⁵ This relates to the implementation of Action 15 of the Looked After Children And Young People: We Can And Must Do Better report. Other recommendations include the nomination of a NHS Board Director with corporate responsibility for looked after children and young people and care leavers by June 2009. Identification of all Looked After children and young people

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| | | | | Bi-annual update reports produced - see rear of document for September details. |
| | Engage with all young people as they move out of the Looked After system and into independence to make sure they are engaged with the specialist Through care health services to meet their changing needs. | July 2009 | Gail Robertson | The LAAC & Young Persons Health team are due to have their objectives reviewed in March 2010 by the Strategic Planning Group. An aim of which is hoped to be the continued aim of securing sustained funding for the Forth Valley Throughcare Aftercare Public Health Nurse post. Current funding stream is due to end 31 st July 2010. Clackmannanshire part funding of post is 0.2 WTE |
| | Engage with all young people as they move out of the Looked After system and into independence to make sure they are engaged with the specialist Through care health services to meet their changing needs. | July 2009 | Gail Robertson | The LAAC & Young Persons Health Team continues to improve access to mainstream health for current and prospective care leavers. Promotion of integrated and partnership working with young people and partners is central to providing effective intervention or support for health needs. All contact with clients is voluntary. Clients eligible for Local Authority Throughcare Aftercare support are able to be referred . Referrals are taken predominantly for specific need, which can include crisis intervention, however engagement with a holistic health assessment is always aimed for, this may take more than one contact. On all occasions once relationship established, and initial reason for referral addressed, clients are encouraged to look at their health needs holistically Access has been established to a variety of NHS and voluntary services to support health needs, including fast track access:- NHS Forth Valley Sexual Health Services, Core Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Dental care for both emergency and non-emergency assessment, Adult Mental Health Services, Substance misuse services. |

Additional Information

1.4 Childcare Social Work Statistical Analysis Contact - Graham Devlin

and care leavers in their NHS area by 31/07/09 including those looked after at home and those placed from outwith HB areas. A mental health assessment to ever Looked After child and young person by 2015. Performance of general and mental health assessments to be reported annually to Scottish Government.

- Of the 228 LAAC cases, 83% were reviewed within statutory timescale for 09/10.
- 71% of the children looked after and accommodated aged 8 and over, attended their last review.
- Views of all of the above children were obtained in other ways;
 - Submission of their "Having Your Say" LAAC report.
 - Personal discussion with the Reviewing Officer prior to or after the review date.
 - Representative of their choice.

2.2 Childcare - Consultation

"MEET THE BOSSES" 24TH JULY 2009 GEAN HOUSE

In Attendance: Dale Cunningham (Woodside), Gemma Mullen (Woodside), Natalie Barker (Woodside), Roxanne McGovern (Throughcare & Aftercare), William Neill (Throughcare & Aftercare), Ashley Barker (Foster Care), Jimmy Macrae (Throughcare & Aftercare), Jordan Miller (Foster Care), Angela Leitch, Grahame Blair, Deirdrie Cilliers, Sam Ovens, Jim Burke, Kaye Smith and Finlay Robertson.

Issues Raised by Young People

Housing

- All of the young people expressed anxiety about where they would live when they are old enough to live independently
 - All of the young people talked about needing more supported independent living flats and that these should be designated for Care Leavers.
 - Not being placed in homeless accommodation was important and two young people expressed fears about this accommodation "being full of folk taking drugs"
 - One young person felt it important that residential staff or foster carers could stay over at their flat initially.
 - All felt they needed help with cooking, cleaning and budgeting
 - All felt they should be offered housing in "good" or "nice" areas and expressed anxiety that this would not be the case.
 - Two young people would like to remain in their current placement until they were 18 years of age but on a shared care basis with their birth families.
- Employment
- All felt the Council should offer work experience or apprenticeships that could lead to permanent jobs.

- One young person felt that "care leavers" should be given paid jobs to support young people "coming into care"
- All felt the Council should do more to help young people get jobs and to create more supported work placements within the Council itself

Education

- Only two people knew who the designated LAC Senior Teacher was in their school
- Four of the young people said no teacher had attended their recent Child Care Reviews
- All felt they were well informed about issues in relation to health, sex, drugs and alcohol by the school
- Three young people felt "encouraged to do well" by teachers
- One young person stated that teachers "can't wait to get rid of you"
- None of the young people felt teachers had high expectations for their future careers
- No young person felt bullied or discriminated against at school

Health

- All young people knew who the LAC Nurse was (Kathy Pickles)
- Four young people felt foster carers and residential workers looked after them well when they were ill
- Four stated they liked G.P.s to ask how they were "getting on in care". They felt this showed the G.P.s cared about them. The other young people were indifferent.

Social Work

- All the young people felt social workers do not listen to their views
- All felt they had too many changes of social workers
- All felt social workers either did not respond to their telephone calls or took too long to do so
- All felt they had too many placement moves
- Two young people felt false allegations were made about their biological family that they had not been told the truth about why they were taken away from their families.

At the end of the event the young people were asked "What is The Most Important Thing You Would Like To See Happen"? There were 3 responses:

- "More social workers listening more"
- "A six month course with the Council then a job
- "Social workers getting us to explain about care to new young people and get paid like a job for doing this"

It was agreed at the end of the event that "The Bosses" would report back on progress on these issues later in the year, possibly during the October school holiday week.

Kaye Smith, Team Manager, Woodside/Throughcare & Aftercare Service

2.3 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

1. with funding from the Clackmannanshire Community Safety Partnership I designed a summer activities programme called ZEST, this provided a 35 day programme of physical activity throughout the school summer holidays for 3 to 18 year olds. ZEST provided 100s of hours of activity of which much was FREE. An interim report has gone to CSP as their funding specifically targeted 10 to 18 year olds.
2. the community wardens and the police helped to promote the activities to groups and young people they met in the street. ZEST was promoted in local press, websites, booklet and leaflet format, at school assemblies and secondary schools. I took the ZEST booklet to a meeting with Jim Burke and Mary Lewis who informed her net work of social workers about it .

Notable results are;

- Over 10,000 attended the free swimming,
- over 1,000 attended the late night leagues
- 31 young leaders delivered 560 hours of volunteering
- new activities such as Parkour were offered
- the poorest uptake was for the free girls only sessions
- the Friday night badminton leagues have continued and numbers are increasing
- overall many 1,000s of hours of participation took place, final report being collated

3. an activity club has been set up for obese girls

4. a TOPs activity resource is available from the Youth Sport Trust with a new approach to accessing and engaging young people who do not participate in physical activity, sports development has 2 trained tutors ready to set up 12 groups. This resource will be presented at the headteachers meeting of 24th November 2009. One of the target groups for this resource is looked after children.
5. the Active ASN has been rejuvenated;a physical activity programme is delivered for the Extended ASN in Alloa Academy and in Lochies school, a **detailed 09/10 plan is attached for local, regional and national events**, the Council hosted a civic reception for the Special Olympics team of 61 athletes of which a third were from Clackmannanshire. The event held at Leicester took place in August 2009 and the team returned with an impressive haul of medals; 32 gold, 23 silver, 19 bronze.

the primary PE teachers are trained in inclusion and ensure pupils with additional support needs are an integral part of the PE lesson which is delivered in every primary school. Pupils with additional support needs are included in the mainstream events programme for primary schools.

Clackmannanshire Council is a funding partner in the regional sports partnership, sportcentral - this has ensured the formation of pathways for specific sports for young people with ASN. Four new ASN members have joined Alloa Swimming Club.
6. the Cashback projects are delivered in conjunction with the Police, CLD and the Community Wardens, football and rugby have been taken to hotspots around Clackmannanshire at the request of the community wardens, an externally funded rugby coach is targeting S1 and S2 pupils to get more boys into the two local clubs, this has increased the number of players at this age group, within the 10 to 18 year age group there are over 150 boys and girls playing regular rugby and know of several on the autistic spectrum and in the looked after category.
7. the Active Schools co-ordinator along with the primary PE / headteacher of the primary schools specifically target certain pupils to get them involved in an after school activity by funding or encouraging attendance. All special, primary and secondary schools in Clackmannanshire have breakfast, lunch and after school clubs for physical activity and sport.
8. the funding of the PHIZ project based in Park Primary School is slowly winding down it has specific targeted aims to ensure pupils in the looked after and ASN categories are involved in the school's programme of activities and events. This school has won the School Sports Challenge Award several years in a row. There is an excellent uptake of Park PS pupils in all the CPSSA activities.

Community Learning & Development

Detached youth work specifically targets vulnerable young people 'Detached youth work happens on young peoples own territory, anywhere they meet up: which could be the streets, bus shelters, parks etc, it therefore is entirely voluntary on the part of the young people who can decide to engage or not with the youth workers'. Detached Youth Work is a method and process of establishing contact, building relationships and engaging with young people, who for whatever reasons, are not utilising existing services and opportunities which are available to them. This approach may necessitate prioritising contact with the more marginalised and vulnerable young people within the community, with the view to either: supporting them to access and utilise existing services and opportunities, or support them to establish new services and provisions which are appropriate to their needs and aspirations or **undertake project work which addresses a specific need or issue**. Detached youth work is therefore often a community development and empowerment process which encourages young people to play a positive and constructive role within their own community.

This is currently happening within CLD and evidence can be given for instance the 'Bucky Busters' a group of young people who have issues around alcohol have been working towards a silver youth achievement award. another group the 'Peak' group, young men with substance misuse and other issues are preparing to go to Bulgaria to help disadvantaged communities. There is also a lot of signposting vulnerable young people to areas within sports development some may have taken this up but there are no ways of recording this

SWIA Performance Inspection - Recommendation 14

http://www.swia.gov.uk/swia/files/Clackmannanshire_Performance_Inspection_Follow%20up_Report_December_2009.pdf

Clackmannanshire Council should put in place a corporate parenting strategy, which sets out corporate responsibilities throughout the council towards looked after children. This strategy should lead to improving outcomes for looked after children and in increasing the number and quality of foster care placements.

The child care service had made a commitment to increase resources within the fostering and adoption service and had recently increased the staffing numbers of the team. They recruited a full time member of staff whose remit was to focus primarily on the recruitment of new foster carers. Staff sickness had had some impact on their initial progress whilst the team manager and senior had worked hard to try to take things forward.

Social Services had set up a foster care consultative group in recognition of the need to better support and consult with foster carers.

Front line staff confirmed that it was too early to be able to evidence whether the implementation of the strategy was improving outcomes for looked after children. However we were told that there had been a capping in the numbers of young people requiring residential placements.

We found that Social Services had made substantial progress in implementing this recommendation.

LAAC & YP Health Team - Update Figures Clackmannanshire

Referrals for newly accommodated children 1st April 2009 – 30th September 2009

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Age of child | Under 5 years | 5-11 | 12-15 |
| Number | 15 | 7 | 4 |

All newly accommodated children should be notified to LAAC & YP Health Team within two days of being removed from home.

| Notification period | Number | % |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 0-2 days | 4 | 16% |
| 3-5 days | 7 | 26% |
| 6-10 days | 2 | 8% |
| 11 + days | 13 | 50% |

LAAC & YP Team aim to offer each young person Health Assessment within one month of referral to inform care plan.

| H/A offered | Number of days |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6-10 days | 1 |
| 11-15 days | 6 |
| 16-21 days | 6 |
| Over 21 days | 12 |
| * No H/A offered | 1 |

*** On one occasion, the young person was placed in secure Unit Outwith Forth Valley and received H/A at placement.**