

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,  
Tuesday, 9th March, 2021, 10.00 am**

**Corporate Director PDS Report**

Children's Services held their first practice week the week beginning 25/01/2021 where we focussed on our work with Care Leavers. We were able to observe some really fantastic and inspiring practice with care experienced young people. Our Lead Member and Chief Executive took part.

All Children's Services colleagues continue to work hard to see all of children young people within statutory timescales despite the challenges of being in a third lockdown. We are working hard with other agencies to support schools re-opening next week.

Children Social Care re-designed the safeguarding outcomes part of the service in June 2020. The service is currently finalising its evaluation report to consider the positives that this has brought to practice and outcomes for children and families.

Ofsted have now resumed their assurance visits for both Children Social Care and Schools.

During this lockdown, B&NES staff from social care and education have ensured that vulnerable children (Children with a social worker or EHCP) had access to an education placement if considered in their best interests. As a result, B&NES has had one of the highest school attendance rates of vulnerable children in the South West. This work has been complemented by our continued expansion of our Virtual School, which now supports children in need and children on a child protection plan.

As children now return to school, B&NES children's services and public health teams will continue to offer advice to support schools to manage covid 19 and allay parental fears and anxieties about returning their children to school. The Education Psychology service will continue to provide on-line training and bespoke sessions on supporting children and staff's mental health.