

Services available to Looked After Children placed in Bracknell Forest by other Local Authorities

General Information

Bracknell Forest lies 28 miles west of London, at the heart of the Thames Valley and within the county of Berkshire. The town of Bracknell was developed as a 'new town' after the Second World War initially housing families who relocated from London. Since its inception as a new town the population has grown from 23,408 in 1951 to 113,205 in 2011.

Bracknell Forest contains six parishes, 18 wards and covers an area of some 109 sq km. Bracknell Forest Council is a relatively small authority which gained unitary status when the former Berkshire County Council was split up in 1998.

The Borough's population is 115,058 (ONS mid year statistics 2012, based on the 2011 Census), of which almost 26% of the population is aged between 0 – 19 years. The 0 – 14 age group as a percentage in Bracknell Forest has decreased from 21% in 2001 to 19% in 2011, but is still slightly higher than the national average which is 18%. Within this the 0 – 4 age group has increased from 7,699 to 8,027, this increase has significance in terms of school places.

The 2011 Census showed that 84.9% of the population of Bracknell Forest was White British' and the BME population was 15.1%. The presence of the Gurkha regiment at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst has led to a significant Nepali community in the south of the Borough.

Since 2001 the proportion of school pupils from Minority Ethnic Groups has increased steadily from 6% to just over 18.7% in January 2014. 10.8% of pupils have English as an Additional Language (EAL) and 79 different languages are spoken in our schools, although many of these in very small numbers.

Consultation and Notification

In line with the 2014 amendments to the Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 if you are planning to place a child from your local authority in Bracknell Forest and it is a 'distant' placement you should consult with us.

Once a decision has been made to proceed notification of the child's details should be sent to the following secure email address: cscadmin@bracknell-forest.gcsx.gov.uk

or by post to:

Bracknell Forest Children's Social Care
Time Square
Market Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1JD.

Please also use this address to notify us when a LAC leaves Bracknell Forest or moves address.

Early Intervention Hub

Young people and their carers/parents and families have access to the Early Intervention Hub following a holistic assessment which has identified that the child/children have additional needs and would benefit from the support of more than one agency or service. Practitioners are encouraged to evidence the views of young people as part of the assessment. The Hub meets fortnightly all year round, including school holiday periods.

The Early Intervention Hub has been developed to:

- Provide a single coordinated multi-agency forum to ensure early intervention and prevention services are offered to children, young people and families.
- Provide a single point of access for all completed assessments [Common Assessment Framework CAF or Family CAF] to be discussed.
- Provide a mechanism for “step up and step down” processes into and out of Children’s Social Care and other specialist services where appropriate.
- Provide a centrally coordinated and managed process which will be independently chaired and supported.
- Consider whole family needs in a multi-agency forum.
- Ensure that issues in relation to transition are identified and supported.

A key part of the decision making is to consider that there is fair and equal access to support and services.

Assessments can be delivered to the Early Intervention Hub by email to:

BracknellCAF@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Children’s Centres

There are 4 Children’s centres within Bracknell Forest which offer a range of universal and targeted support for children aged 0-5 years and their families. This will include a range of group activities in the main centres and outreach venues, individual support with the centre and family outreach within the family home.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/childrenscentres>

Early Years Child Care and Nursery Provision.

LAC aged 2, 3 and 4 are entitled to up to 15 hours of free early education per week (570 hours per annum). These hours can be accessed in the following provisions who are on the Council’s list of registered providers:

- Pre-schools, day nurseries, child minders
- Independent schools
- Local authority maintained nurseries within primary schools.

All settings have support from local authority officers who are able to give advice; guidance and support on meeting the needs of children and ensuring the setting are offering appropriate learning and development opportunities. Children’s development should be effectively monitored and tracked to ensure they are making adequate progress. Should they not be making adequate progress settings may need to be referred to other agencies to receive the support required. Early education information can be found at

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/freeentitlementtoearlyeducation>

Education and School Admissions

School Admissions

Information about the schools in the area and the process of admission to school including the local authority’s admission policy which applies to all community and voluntary controlled schools can be found on Bracknell Forest Council’s website.

Admission policies for other schools are published on either the Bracknell Forest website and/or the school’s own website.

The School Admissions Team is happy to provide advice and guidance on all aspects of admissions. If you wish to apply for a school place you can do so online at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/changingschoolsmidyear>

If you would like to discuss the admission to school of a specific looked after child moving to Bracknell Forest please contact the Senior School Admissions Officer, on 01344 354023 or by email at school.admissions@bracknell-forest.gcsx.gov.uk

As part of the process you should include all relevant documentation to ensure a smooth and successful placement in a school.

Bracknell Forest Virtual School

The Bracknell Forest Virtual School is not a teaching institution but a way of bringing together the information about children and young people who are cared for by the local authority as if they were in a single school. That way, their progress can be closely tracked and supported, and interventions can be targeted in a more strategic way. The school has a Head Teacher - a statutory post within every local authority - who, as a senior manager within the authority can support and challenge local authority departments, schools and other agencies to help them do better.

What the Virtual School do

- Champion the educational needs of children and young people who are looked after by Bracknell Forest Council and other local authorities educated inside the county or cared for by Bracknell Forest attending schools in other local authorities.
- The Virtual School for Looked after Children works closely with schools to ensure Adopted children have a more stable educational experience. We do this by providing schools with advice on aspects of creating strong school and family partnership particularly focused on supporting children who have been adopted.
- Promote aspiration for educational achievement by demanding it is a priority within the lives of looked after children to improve outcomes and life chances.
- Ensure all children and young people have access to the best possible education and every chance to progress and realise their individual potential.
- Assess and review personalised support plans to raise attainment - providing advice, guidance and support for intervention where this is needed.
- You can contact the Assistant Virtual School Head on 0118 936 6431 ()

Targeted Services

Targeted Services provide a range of specialist teams that support and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in schools in Bracknell Forest. The service targets young people and their families who may be in need of additional support working in partnership with schools and other agencies. The teams work with schools, offering an extensive range of products and services to help assess and plan effective interventions to meet the needs of individual pupils, groups of pupils and their parents, carers. For example, high levels of absence, challenging behaviour or poor family relationships are areas of concern.

Targeted Services comprises of 6 teams:

- Behaviour Support Team Tel. 01344 354255
- Education Welfare Service Tel. 01344 464722
- Language and Literacy Service Tel. 01344 354198
- Safeguarding and Inclusion Team Tel. 01344 354014
- SEN: There are a range of services available to families with a child or children who have a disability or additional need. For more information about the Local Offer follow the link below:

<http://bracknellforest.fsd.org.uk/kb5/bracknell/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=6>

- Teaching and Support Services Tel. 01344 354198

The service can be accessed by contacting the Team Leaders.

Information Advice and Guidance

Adviza work with young people, predominantly once they have left Year 11, who have not yet found their next steps. It is a charity which supports young people to raise their aspirations as well as providing information, advice and guidance. This could be related to options and guidance into employment, education or training and includes advice and support to find a suitable apprenticeship, a job, quality training courses, college courses or generally working with the young person to find out what his/her strengths, skills, areas of development are.

Adviza also directly works with Bracknell Forest Council to ensure that all young people needing an Education Health and Care Plan (previously the S139a) for young people with SEND receive one.

Main Provision from Adviza:

- Offer young people impartial and professional guidance on learning and career options to help prevent them becoming NEET and to support from NEET to EET destinations
- Raise young peoples' aspirations and motivate them to achieve their full potential
- Help young people overcome barriers to their progression in learning and work, including issues such as: housing, relationships, bullying, health matters, substance misuse, finance and offending behaviour.

Adviza in Bracknell Forest also delivers;

- The local Youth contract
- The Energise Project
- The Lucky Break mentoring Project
- The National Careers Service – project delivering careers information, advice and guidance to adults across The Thames Valley.

Adviza is also a partner of Elevate Bracknell Forest

Elevate Bracknell Forest is part of the Thames Valley Berkshire City Deal. The programme aims to address the skills gaps, unemployment and underemployment of our 16-24 year old population. This will help to maximise the impact of our collective investment and further growth in the area.

[ElevateMe Bracknell Forest](#) is a website that aims to help 16-24 year olds in Bracknell Forest get help, advice and support on employment, work experience, education, volunteering and mentoring.

Young people can also access the Elevate Hub in Charles Square. It is a new one-stop hub to get free careers information, advice support and guidance to help young people into meaningful employment, education or training.

Elevate Bracknell Forest Hub, Charles Square upper level, Bracknell, RG12 1DF

Phone: 0845 408 5001

Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 12:30 - 5pm, Wednesday: 9:30 - 5pm, Friday: 9:30 - 1pm

Children in Care Council

In Bracknell we have two Children in Care Councils.

SiLSiP (Say it Loud, Say it Proud) Juniors is aimed at looked after children 8-12yrs. SiLSiP Juniors meet every couple of months to give young people in care an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation and discuss the issues that are affecting them.

SiLSiP Seniors are aged 12 upwards and meet once a month to ensure that the voice of looked after children and young people in Bracknell is heard. The group discuss the issues that might affect young people in care, and are supported to work together to ensure that looked after young people have a voice and influence in any decisions that might affect them.

Holiday activities are offered to both age groups of looked after children, giving them an opportunity to have fun, meet others in a similar situation and have a say on issues that may affect them as looked after children/young people. As funding for activities is limited arrangements for young people to be involved would need to be negotiated on an individual basis with the placing local authority.

For more information on participation and SiLSiP contact the Child Participation Development Officer on 01344 351 546

Independent Advocacy

Independent Advocacy services for children and young people in Bracknell Forest are provided by Action for Children and spot purchases can be arranged through VOICE. The service provides:

- Advocacy for looked after children
- Advocacy for care leavers
- Advocacy for children and young people wishing to make a complaint
- Advocacy for children and young people subject to Child Protection proceedings

Funding for this service would need to be negotiated on an individual basis and met by the placing authority.

Referrals can be made by the child/young person themselves, carers, social workers, IRO's. For more information or to make a referral contact the Child Participation Development Officer on 01344 351 546 or contact Action for Children on 01635 873 739.

Independent Visitor Scheme

Independent Visitor services in Bracknell Forest are provided by Action for Children. Services are also provided by other organisations on a spot purchase basis.

The service is independent of children's social care. An Independent Visitor is a volunteer, there to visit, befriend and advise a young person. Subject to capacity, Bracknell Forest may be able to offer an Independent Visitor service to young people placed within Bracknell Forest by other local authorities. Funding for this would need to be negotiated on an individual contractual basis and met by the placing local authority.

For more information or to make a referral contact the Child Participation Development Officer on 01344 351 546

Leaving Care Service

The Bracknell Forest Leaving Care Service offer a drop in service for young people Leaving Care Monday to Friday 10am -4pm at their offices at 76 Binfield Road, Bracknell. RG42 2AR. Young People Leaving Care who reside in Bracknell but whose 'home' Local Authority is elsewhere are welcome to access support and advice from the service but will not be allocated a worker.

Targeted Youth Support Service and Bracknell Forest Youth Service

The Bracknell Forest Youth Service supports work in four Centres delivering specific programmes and commissioning services from other providers.

- The Wayz – run by Berkshire Youth
- The Spot – sessions run by BFC and supported by Redz Performing Arts company and South Hill Arts Centre staff
- The Zone – sessions run by Berkshire Youth
- NRG and The Lodge – targeted programmes run through the Youth Service
- South Hill Park- Arts Plus me – sessions for LAC young people and young carers
- Young Carers programme – run by Kids
- Youth Line – counselling support for young people across BF area

The leaflet below outlines the work of the Targeted Youth Support, which offers advice and guidance and support to schools and individual young people.

Contact the Youth Service at: 7 Portman Close, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 1NE

Tel. 01344 464731 Fax. 01344 464710

For more information on the Targeted Youth Support and youth activities put on with our partners go to:

www.xpresionz.co.uk or youth.service@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

(Click below to open as attachment)



Information for professionals



Health Services including Mental Health

- Berkshire East Health Team for Looked After Children should be notified of any children placed within Bracknell Forest. The team should also be notified when the child leaves the Bracknell Forest area. Notification should be made by email to BE.LAC@nhs.net
- Initial health assessments should be organised directly with the child's GP.
- Review health assessments are organised by the Berkshire East Health Team and requests should be made via email to BE.LAC@nhs.net
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS.) Berkshire CAMHS aims to promote good mental health, and to assess and treat mental health problems in children and young people up to the age of 18 years. Further information on services offered and referral pathways can be found at <http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/camhs/>

Looked after children and young people placed in Berkshire have access to universal and specialist services including GP, Health Visitor, School Nurses, Occupational therapy,

Physiotherapy and Speech therapy. Information on all services available and referral pathways can be found at <http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/>

Missing, exploited and trafficked children and young people

Bracknell has a Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Operational Group (CSEOG), which meets once a month and uses its collective expertise to make recommendations for managing identified risks of CSE. It also discusses children who are frequently reported missing, and the risks around this and how to reduce them. The panel endeavours to identify trends, suspects and opportunities for positive intervention to safeguard those young people at risk of CSE.

For those most at risk, Police and children's services will take all the necessary steps to intervene and protect. To raise awareness and support understanding of child sexual exploitation, the CSEOG has produced a cue card for professionals and parents. There are also leaflets provided by Thames Valley Police for parents, friends and the young person themselves. The CSE screening tool is completed for any child with indicators of CSE, and this is shared at the CSEOG.

All children who are reported as missing in Bracknell will have a Missing Return Interview (MRI) completed within 72 hours of returning home or to care as directed by national guidance. If the young person is assessed as meeting the threshold for tier two services the MRI will be completed by the most appropriate person to the young person, usually an independent Social Worker currently positioned within the Specialist Support Team. Young people who are considered to present early indicators but no risk and do not meet this threshold the MRI will be undertaken by a Youth Worker from the Targeted Youth Support Team. Intelligence is gathered, analysed and shared at the monthly CSEOG for frequently missing persons, to safeguard individuals and young people collectively. The data from missing children is also collated weekly and shared, to ensure all return home interviews are completed, and if necessary missing risk assessments are completed.

Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Board

The LSCB is made up of representatives from a broad range of services that work with children and young people, or with their parents/carers (in statutory, voluntary, community and independent settings). These partners include the council (Children's and Adults Services), Thames Valley Police, probation, health services, schools, voluntary and community services, Broadmoor Hospital and many more. A structure Chart and Guide to the LSCB can be found at the links below:

For more information visit www.bflscb.org.uk

<http://www.bflscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/lscb-structure-chart-and-board-membership.pdf>

<http://www.bflscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/guide-to-the-lscb.pdf>

Youth Offending

All young offenders who live in Bracknell, including LAC placed here by other Local Authorities are eligible for YOS services. Depending on a young person's assessed needs and circumstances we offer the following services:

- help to deter young people away from offending and re-offending
- help for parents to manage their children's behaviour
- help for persistent offenders to change their behaviour and to not reoffend
- allowing young people to make reparation to the victims of their offences
- support to young people on bail to help prevent re-offending
- support for young people remanded or sentenced to Custody, and supervision and resettlement following release

Bracknell Forest YOS have a Caretaking and Transfer policy in place which sets out the agreement between Bracknell Forest YOS and a home YOS regarding management of cases from out of the local area. This policy aims to prevent difficulties in communication by establishing a clear and robust agreement between the home YOS and Bracknell Forest YOS so that young people are provided with a good service.

Further information and contact details can be found on the Bracknell Forest Website at the link below:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/youthoffending>