

How can Councillors support the service improvement journey for Children in Care through their role as corporate parents?

Schools, Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny
Committee
25 January 2017 at 13:00 – 17:00
Committee Rooms 3 & 4

Corporate Parenting Overview

Andy Pepper

**Assistant Director
Children in Care Provider Services**

What is Corporate Parenting?

The Statutory definition - As the corporate parent of children in care the State has a special responsibility for their wellbeing. Like any good parent, it should put its own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping children to make a success of their lives.

Having the same aspirations and commitment to children and young people in care as any good parent would have for their own children.

Birmingham's Vision for Children in Care

Birmingham's vision is that as corporate parents we will have the same aspirations and commitment to children and young people in care as any good parent would have for their own children.

Birmingham is a big city with big challenges but this also provides big opportunities. Support and services provided should always make a positive difference every day to children and young people's lives.

- **Children & Young People – proud of their City.**
- **Be part of the Big city, be up for the big challenge, and be enabled to take the big opportunity**

Good Corporate Parenting delivers...

- **Children in Care and Care Leavers that are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.**
- **Good quality outcomes – narrowing the gap**
- **Good quality interventions that deliver real opportunities**



What we have done January 2016

- New Board and membership
- New Strategy
- New focused working group
- Corporate parenting district champions group to start operating
- New TOR and role definition
- Working on links with scrutiny
- Working on gaining commitments
- Concentration on added value



Ofsted feedback March 2014

- The corporate parenting board is weak and, until very recently, there has been no corporate parenting strategy.
- Action should be taken to revise the function and purpose of the corporate parenting board and strategy to ensure that the needs of looked after children are paramount and that the right actions are taken to improve the quality of their lives.

Ofsted Feedback September 2016

- The corporate parenting board now has a clear focus on issues for young people and is beginning to have an impact on improving services. The Children in Care Council is established and is listened to by the council, but more work is required to ensure that it is representative of all children in care in Birmingham.
- Clear governance arrangements now oversee the board and its work effectively.
- Although the board has achieved some improvements, it is still at an early stage of considering the full range of issues for children looked after. For example, the board has not considered the IRO annual report and, although it secured a number of refurbished laptops for children looked after, did not know how many children looked after had access to a computer or laptop at the time of the inspection.
- It has, However, established itself as a key driver in improving services for children looked after and has ensured that nearly all councillors have had training about their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Children in care improvement highlights

- Working with the courts and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)
- Appropriate decisions are made for children to become looked after. Most children are enabled to have meaningful contact with their family
- Children benefit from regular review of their care plans.
- When children are placed out of the local authority area, priority is given to securing a suitable placement, with education services identified as soon as possible. This includes appropriate use of both therapeutic and secure accommodation to meet needs and reduce risks for some children.

- The education of children looked after is positive, with attendance, attainment and progress being supported effectively by a **well-led virtual school**. An increasing range of after-school activities are enabling children to become more self-confident.
- The number of children attending good or better schools has increased.
- For those children who struggle to sustain a place in mainstream education, a range of alternative provision is used.
- The vast majority of personal education plans are now completed within appropriate and timescales and those sampled were generally of good quality
- Risks for children who frequently go missing, and risks from gangs or sexual exploitation, are considered and reduced through robust plans.
- Most children live in stable placements.
- Children are engaged in decisions about their lives and social workers visit them regularly.

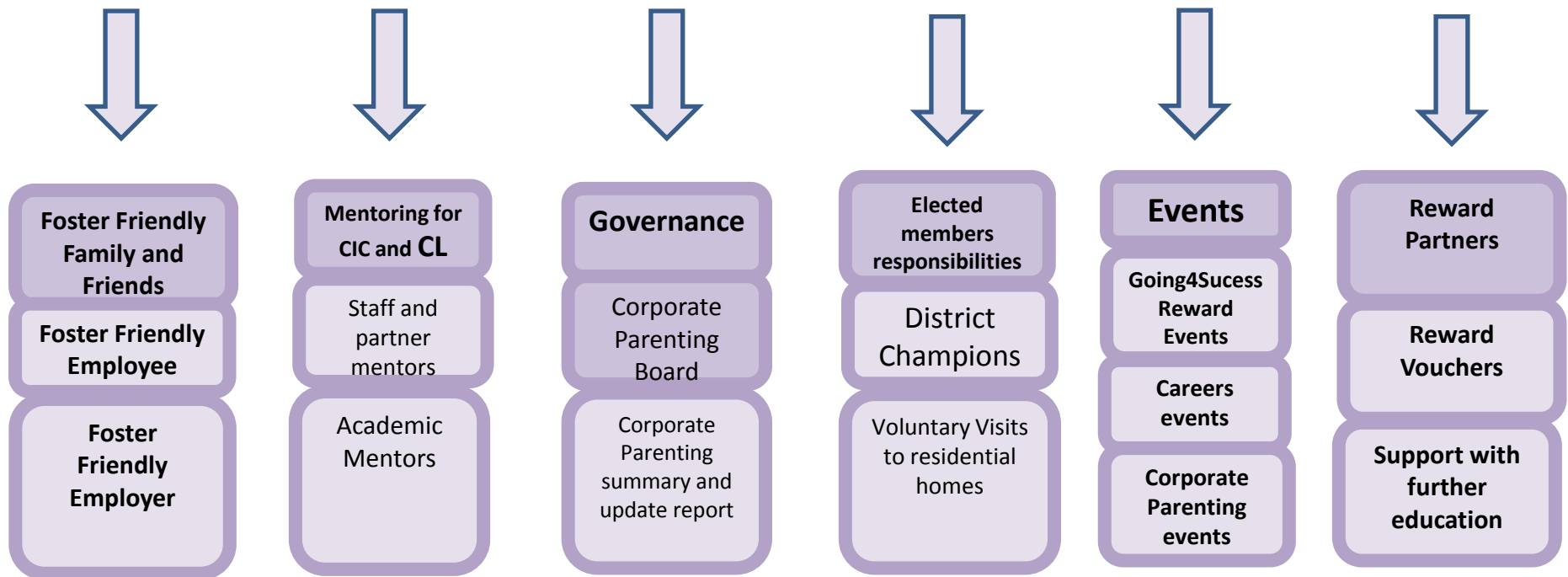
- Adoption is considered for children who cannot return home and they live with their new families more quickly than at the time of the last inspection.
- Care leavers enjoy positive relationships with their personal advisers, are supported into adulthood.
- The majority of children who have disabilities and who are in care are making tangible progress and are positively engaged with by their social workers.
- The local authority took practical and decisive action to review and improve the welfare of children living with special guardians and connected persons.
- Assessments for foster carers are thorough, include relevant checks and are appropriately challenging if concerns are identified. The large majority of foster carers spoken to by inspectors were very positive about the support they receive from their supervising social workers, describing them as 'amazing' and 'second to none.'
- The local authority has commissioned an effective service to support children aged 10 to 16 years who are moving from residential care to foster placements.

Corporate Parenting Activity

Natalie Loon
Corporate Parenting
Coordinator

Corporate Parenting activity

Areas of progress 2016/17



Children in Care Overview

Lorna Scarlett

Assistant Director

North West Central

Advocacy , Voice of the Child and Children in Care Council (CiCC)

Lisa Carter

Head of Participation and Engagement

Fostering and Adoption

Theresa Kane

Head of Service

Vision

Whole System Approach to Supporting Children & Families

Ambitious - Being Ambitious for our Children

Timely – Ensuring that children are placed without delay

Sufficiency – Recruiting/Assessing Carers

Support – Having the right support in place

Ofsted

Children looked after and achieving permanence - **RI**

Adoption Performance - **RI**

Fostering's Role in the Child's journey

Service re-alignment to create a focus on SGO.

The review & development of the SGO/Connected assessment service ensures placements are timely, safe and supported for children.

Assessments are completed in-house in collaboration with the area worker and are now of a good quality. No recommendation will be made in an assessment without all checks completed and DBS and Medical viewed by the assessor.

A review of historical SGO cases has been undertaken. Arrangements are being made to visit or contact and offer support, training and guidance, as may be appropriate.

Fostering's Role in the Child's journey

Mid-Point reviews have been introduced at week 6/7

All new SGO arrangements now remain open to Children's services for 3 months post order and to the SGO service for 6 months after the order is granted.

There are currently 49 Connected Persons Carers, providing 57 placements and 95 cases currently allocated to workers for assessments and support.

Currently 655 children subject to SGO arrangements.

Fostering's Role in the Child's journey

Assessments for foster carers are thorough, including relevant checks.

Assessments are timely (8-12 weeks).

A dedicated training officer for foster carer development programme.

Support Group for UASC Carers

Fostering's Role in the Child's journey

Monthly monitoring of blocked beds and internal vacancies – savings

Target of 8 beds per month (17 beds Sept – Dec 2016)

Improved absence rates

Placements Team within Children's Services

Co-location of A & F at Lancaster

Adoption's Role in the Child's journey

Service has been graded Requires Improvement.

Continued focus on adoption and no decrease in numbers of children with a plan for adoption (140 in 2015-16) and 76 at the end of November 2016.

Tenacious family finding; older children; sibling groups and children from BME backgrounds.

Excellent adopter preparation

New Post Order Support Service and a positive impact evidenced.

Adoption's Role in the Child's journey

Scorecard:

A1 – 724 from Care to Placement (NA 593)

A2 – 263 from Care to Placement (NA 223)

A3 ,16mth from Care to Placement 38% (NA 47%-SN 42%)

19% children placed over 5 years

BME Children placed 11% (NA 9%)

Adoption's Role in the Child's journey

Low Disruption Rate

Development of Permanence Panels

Good use of the Adoption Support Fund

Regionalising Adoption

Fostering Moving Forward

Fostering Recruitment Assessment & Support are key service areas to support the placement of children internally; Reducing external placements helps to reduce costs to the Council. The service has improved and there are more children placed internally than externally (December 2016).

Joint work with the Placements Team and the Fostering Service.

The service is working closely with the corporate communications team to devise a recruitment strategy and develop knowledge and analysis about 'What Works'.

A support programme for foster carers is in place for 2017-2018

SGO/Connected/PF Moving Forward

SGO/Connected/Private Fostering sits within fostering under a specific management structure. This is to ensure that the priorities within the service areas are aligned.

The service has moved forward at a fast pace with SGO/Connected. However, there is still work to be done streamlining processes and improving SGO support services.

Private Fostering moved across to the service in June 2016 from the area teams. Further work is required around identification of PF across staff teams and with partners.

Adoption Moving Forward

Early Permanence to be developed

Permanence Advice Clinics embedded across the system.

Pre-order support requires strengthening to reduce crisis intervention within adoption support.

Regionalising Adoption

Delivery Moving Forward

The strategy:

To further develop the skills of the workforce in attachment based practice – Foundation for Attachment (common Language)

To ensure each service area has a number of DDP level 1 practitioners. And identify workers to progress to DDP level 2 across the service.

Support specific training needs across the service.

Implementation of the Foundation for Attachment training programme for foster carers.

Care Leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Children (UASC)

Shank Patel

Head of Service

Care Leavers Service

- A statutory duty and corporate parenting responsibility to support young people who were in care from the age of 18 to 21, or 25 if they are in higher education.
- Supporting care leavers into adulthood and with this offering advice, guidance, practical, emotional and financial support.
- The support is offered through each care leaver having an allocated personal advisor. A role that is required in law. This is a non-social work qualified role.

- Our care leavers reflect our community and society, but research will also indicate that they are the most vulnerable - Over represented as homeless, in contact with the criminal justice system, mental health services, are NEET and young parents.
- This sets the context of our support which should begin as early as is possible. Legally this is set at 15 ½.

Care Leavers Service

- A Citywide service of four teams that is currently supporting 702 care leaver.
- Employing x4 Team managers and x30 FTE Personal Advisors. On average the case load of each TM is x175 and for each PA this is x24
- The teams are 'co-located' with the CiC teams at SNR, Lifford and NAH. Recently established the 4th team to outward face to UASC and DCSC.
- Currently x113 UASC, of which 60% are aged 16-18 and 90% are male. Hence a rising number of UASC care leavers

- Ofsted Inspection Judgement Nov. 16 – Experience and Progress of Care Leavers – Requires Improvement
- ‘Considerable work has taken place since the last inspection to improve practice. Young people say that they feel well supported by their aftercare advisers and show confidence in seeking advice and support when they need to. Personal safety and keeping safe are key themes which are regularly discussed with care leavers, and when interventions are required they are duly recorded....’

Care Leavers Service – Doing Well

- In touch with 97% of care leavers, better than the national average of 88%
- 94% in suitable accommodation
- 101 care leavers at University, which is approximately 15%, this against a national average of 6%
- YP choosing to stay in care until their 18th birthday at 78% against 68% nationally
- Staying Put – doubled since the last inspection, x35 to x77.
- Care Leavers forum
- Homeless Youth Hub – Children's, Housing & St Basil's, a National exemplar.

Care Leavers Service – Do Better

- Pathway planning
- NEET – 46% NEET against a national average of 40%
- Transition planning 16-18 with CiC, DCSC & Adults
- TESS / Forward Thinking B'ham – Access & Support
- Health Passports
- Housing & Accommodation
- Finance- Universal Credit, benefits, DWP, poverty
- Council Tax exemption
- X13 Care leavers in custody, better release planning & support
- Celebrating success and achievement

Care Leavers Service

- Ofsted Recommendation 16

Strengthen the opportunities open to care leavers through the council's own services to ensure that they receive appropriate consideration to enable them to achieve better outcomes

Children In Care South

Sally Craddock

Head of Service

The journey so far.....

There have been significant improvements in the last 12 month in staffing retention, a reduction in the number of agency staff and an improvement in all the key performance indicators.

This has enabled:-

- **Children to have a consistent social worker**
- **Children to build a better relationship with their named worker**
- **Permanency Planning to be improved with more children in permanent placements**
- **Better partnership working**

What we have achieved in South

We:-

- **exercise our corporate responsibilities with pride and care**
- **provide good quality responsive services to all children aged 0 - 18 years who are in care**
- **ensure no child is unallocated**
- **Ensure every child has a social worker who they know and are able to contact**
- **ensure good retention and positive development of staff**
- **create a positive work environment with a learning culture**
- **have strengthened our partnership working**

What we have achieved in South continued...

Over the last 12 months we have:-

- **improved the quality and practice of service we deliver - improvement in key performance indicators**
- **Ensured the % of children visited within timescales maintained at 97%**
- **increased positive service user feedback**
- **reduced the number of complaints our service receives**
- **delivered more focused and purposeful interventions using child friendly tools**
- **improved our planning for permanency**
- **significantly reduced the number of s20 children**

The improvements in south...

The key improvements have been:-

- **the retention and stability of the workforce**
- **the reduction in the number of agency workers, with several seeking permanent posts**
- **positive recruitment and promotion opportunities for both senior practitioners and newly qualified staff**
- **practitioners clear about their role + committed to the young people for whom they are the corporate parent**
- **children were safely returned to parental care where possible**
- **a practice focused training programme for all staff was embedded which included the training of team managers in systemic practice**
- **introducing a south monthly service meeting to share and learn about different good practice and develop their knowledge together**

The improvements in South continued....

The improvements have enabled us to:

- **develop a strong working environment, good team cohesiveness and morale**
- **ensure each child has a named social worker who is consistent in their lives and who can build meaningful relationships with them**
- **undertake a number of new ventures including a summer trip to the seaside for some of our children and their social workers**
- **collect and make Christmas hampers for all of our young people aged 16-18 years who resided independently to provide extra support**
- **increase the number of children placed in adoptive placements, particularly in respect of older children, sibling groups and harder to place children**
- **engage in a partnership with a local college where some of our children in care took over their social work course on “Take-Over Day”**

What still needs to be done and how are we going to do it?

We need to continue to improve the child's journey and direct experiences by:-

- **continuing to work in a child focused way with the child at the centre**
- **carefully review each child's plan regularly to ensure it is the best plan for that child**
- **securing permanency plans more quickly**
- **improving our placement choices for children**
- **reducing the number of placement moves for children**
- **reducing the number of external and residential placements our children live in**
- **ensuring we achieve value for money in our external placements**
- **improving our matching processes for placements**
- **consistently re-enforcing interventions to reduce our numbers of children that are missing, at risk of child sexual exploitation, at risk of female genital mutilation or missing education**

What still needs to be done and how are we going to do it? Continued....

How will we do this:

- **work in close partnership with children, parents and carers and other Agencies**
- **reduce the court timescales, improving our pre proceedings work and continue to develop our partnership working with Cafcass and the IRO service**
- **provide placements that are timely and fit for purpose and meet the child's needs. This would allow for more planned moves, children having choices in their moves and introductory visits.**
- **endeavor to place our children with Birmingham foster carers**
- **ensure that we seek and listen to feedback from children and their families/carers**
- **continue to invest in staff development and training to ensure that we maintain the positive workforce**

Children In Care East

Sivay Heer

Head of Service

The Journey So Far

- **Data**

528 Children in Care in East. **48** children are in adoptive placements, **20** where we are Family Finding. **59** within care proceedings, **71** children s20 and **330** on Care Orders of which **30** of these are **PCPs** and the others subject to long term fostering, residential or independence.

- **Children**

The children we work with are our most vulnerable with complex needs. Meeting this need sometimes raises more questions than answers on how we respond to individual needs of that child and how we risk manage this. This was evidence through the work we did with Corporate Parent Board.

- **Work Force**

3 years ago, staff morale was low, there was a change in structure and caseloads were high and staff instability. There was high sickness, and capability issues. This has improved and we have recruited a number of newly qualified SW.

What East Has Done

- Drive on Performance and Quality Assurance in line with Improvement Plan. TM and SW Leads Identified to Improve Practice.
- Worked within the Framework of Right Service Right Time Where focus is 'The Right Children In Care'. Children in Care number reduced in East.
- East is managing sickness and capability via monthly panel's chaired by HOS and there is a robust focus on staff recruitment and retention.
- Reduced caseloads given improved transfer process and good throughput.
- Keeping Children at the forefront of day to day Practice i.e. CSE/Missing.
- Improved Partnership with Police, External Agencies, Health, Education, Family Support, Commissioning/Placements, Courts, Corporate Parenting Board.
- Embedded Reflective Practice/Supervision and Team Managers are now attending systemic supervision training.

The Good Things/Improvements in East

- Frequency of visits to young children have improved, these have become purposeful and linked to the children's care plan.
- Regular practice and peer evaluations, which has led to reflective discussions, progress of care plans, shared learning and less drift.
- Children are now having regular health assessments and dentals.
- Most CIC children have ePEPs, our virtual school staff are linked to each CIC team to develop a more effective education delivery for our children
- Quality assurance has led to an improvement in quality of written work, considering impact on children and is less description and more analysis.
- East undertook a specific CSE Audit via the champion group which highlighted a areas we should consider to improve practice.

The Good things/Improvements in East

- A CSE case was reviewed by the safeguarding board which was commended for the excellent practice, the child said 'the social worker saved me and changed my life'.
- East has been involved in challenging the quality of children's homes, including supporting lodgings.
- Each case has a case summary and focus is impact chronologies.
- Ofsted commended East for the evidence of direct work we are undertaking with children.
- East has developed relationships with external agencies, such as the Police and the Locate Team; providing opportunities for shadowing sharing of information and improved management of risk.
- East has increased the number of matched placements through working with Family Finding. Family finders now spend time with us once a month to discuss cases and improve planning for adoption.

What still needs to be done and how

- **Consistency** across the teams, via HOS/ TM and Service Meetings.
- **Court Work:** Improved time-scales and knowledge and practice in respect of court work to include analysis and assessment skills.
- **Assessments** to be undertaken reflecting any change in long term cases.
- **Evidence** of decision making and Rational and reflection of placement disruptions.
- **Pathway Planning** to build relationship with adults transition teams and effective planning for care leavers at earlier stage.
- **Voice or child/Life Story and Direct Work** – To complete this with all our CIC children.
- **Voice of the Parents** to be more evident within care planning for children.
- **Emotional and Mental Health Support** for children, is an area we need to build on. Continue TESS surgeries and Partners attending our meetings.

Children in Care North West & Central

Manjit Rai

Head of Service

8 Children in Care Teams

- All based at New Aston House

The Journey So Far

- Area Resource Panels on a weekly basis as assisted hugely to reduce the children in care, agreement to Legal Planning Meeting and funding issues.
- Overall reduction in children in care via rehabilitation home, adoption, special guardianship orders and revocation of care orders
- Focused on practice through Practice Forums, completing practice evaluations and learnings from these. Ensure that SWs complete quarterly case summaries, updating chronologies.
- Children who are in care now are in the right service except for those that are Section 20 with plans of rehabilitation remain with our safeguarding teams

What We Have Done

- Continues to be stable work force with a total of 53 staff.
- Overall Morale is positive and good in CIC.
- Total of 2 agency workers covering maternity leave, 1 covering sickness.
- 8 agency workers across the whole service
- Group Supervisions continue within teams where Senior Practitioner lead on, discussing complex case looking at themes, practice and reflection. Learning to improve on practice.
- CIC Practice Improvement Forums are used to improve areas where staff could benefit from. Monthly meetings with all CIC social work teams to focus on practice issues/policies/procedures.
- Focus on care planning in adoption cases/procedures
- Court Skills – completing statements/ giving evidence/completing Child Permanency Reports
- Transition process to adults
- Learning from Serious Case reviews
-
- Three Monthly Case summaries to reflect on what has worked well, what hasn't worked well and why this has not. Child being the focus.
- 3 managers have completed the Systemic Supervision Training and further 2 managers are on the course. Attempts are being made to embed this into supervision

The Good Things / Improvements

Reducing Children in Care

- We have tracked our Section 20 children in care. These have been reviewed and for those where parental responsibility needs to be shared we have initiated care proceedings. Worked closely with Edge of Care to return children to families where it has been safe to do so.
- As part of our CIC improvement plan is to look at assessing possible rehab of children to families from LA care. This again following discussions with our IRO colleagues is being progressed and family assessments are being completed to focus what changes have occurred within the family and how these have been sustained, reassessing children's needs and how parents can now meet them. We are completing family assessments on these cases.

External Panel reviews – Monthly

- Reviews have led to case determine cases for Complex Care Planning
- Planning of YP to transition team and step down to semi-independent living.
- Addition funding is challenged and what value for money we are getting from providers. – focussing also on whether SW were fully aware of how YP's needs are being met within the financial package. Ensuring the package for the young person is outcome led. Focus is on high cost placement

The Good Things / Improvements – Cont.

Revocation of Care Orders

- We have successfully completed revocation of Care Orders on children who have been living with their families and this has assisted our numbers being reduced
- Updating assessments on Children who are Placed with Parents. Ensuring Schedules 3 assessments are completed and updated for every child who is placed at home on a care order. Assessing whether circumstances of the parent(s) have changed to enable our involvement to cease,
- We have good links with our fostering and adoption services. Early identification of children that is likely to have plans of adoption for family finders to be identified. We now have permanency clinics where practitioners from the adoption service are available on a fortnightly basis to discuss cases

What Still Needs To Be Done And How Are We Going To Do It

CSE/MISSING

- Consistency in recording. Use of return interviews
- Improving partnership working with Police.
- Develop a local missing person forum to discuss/share information collectively, including SWs, TMs commencing 13/1/17
- Use of statutory visits to discuss risks/vulnerability/impact.
- Use the CSE area coordinator and area lead TM to support social workers working with CSE- focus on tools/relationship/
- Have Clear understanding of processes of transfer to transition teams, criteria for service, timescales for assessments.
- Develop relationships with the adult transition team. Early referrals to transition teams to enable the process of assessment to commence so that when young people with complex need have appropriate support identified from the transition team. Building better links with the transition team/ inviting to team meetings having a link with adults transition teams.

Court Work

- Whilst there has been improvements in court work we still have some way to go to ensure that we complete court cases within the 26 weeks. We are working closely with our safeguarding teams for early identification of court cases so that these can come at the point of issuing care proceedings. We are also using the joint practice forums for CIC and safeguarding to learn and improve on court work particularly where pre-proceedings should commence much earlier. This is working progress.

Residential Homes

Mel Page

Service Manager

The Journey so far

- Residential Services for Disabled Children long term and short breaks over five sites.
- Ofsted made a requirement in 2016:-
- Edgewood Road 12 compliance notices in Jan 16 and was Judged as Good by October
- That there should be an improvement and reduction of paperwork and recording systems.
- To improve the decoration and fabric of the building.
- The children must have access to aids and equipment to be able to communicate and express their views.
- The positives are broad, generally children enjoy living in the homes and receiving short breaks. There was positive feedback from Parents, social workers, health and schools. Children make progress and have good relationships with staff.

What we have done

- Autism Education Trust Training tiers 1 -3 training has been commissioned.
- The umbrella project is working with sexual health coordinators to provide training to all staff.
- Individuals have been trained by Makaton to local tutor level which enabled them to train staff.
- The home managers have visited other authorities to share good practice.
- The homes have developed their working relationships with schools, police and the community.
- Agreed decoration and maintenance plan for each home. New sensory environments, play and outdoor equipment.
- Successfully obtained funding from SB to purchase communication software and introduced communication aids seen in other authorities.
- The visiting advocates have been reinstated and the children now have access to a visiting advocate once per month.

The good things improvements

- Better communication systems and training to ensuring children are able to give their views.
- CAT CHOOS building works were undertaken to completely separate the short breaks from the school and give them their own environment.
- Recruitment of new staff. This Included a successful children's panel that were supported by the RAP advocate.
- Leasing appropriate transport for the children including minibuses and people carriers.
- Children have learned new skills and been enabled to move to Foster care or returned home as well as successful transitions to adult care. Children engaging in a national cooking project, national arts awards, educational achievements and award evenings.
- Parents have set up their own forums at Warwick and Charles House this has come out of regular coffee morning started by the homes.

Good things reported.

- The staff team demonstrates a high level of understanding of the young people's needs and know what the young people like and don't like and how they like to be treated.
- Both health and education staff are very complimentary about the staff. Teachers value staff's knowledge of autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. They are keen to extend the behaviour management strategies used at the home across to school
- *The first time I came to look around here I thought it looked great. I am really looking forward to going to Drayton Manor Park on Thursday. It is going to be epic. A child Wrote – CHARLES HOUSE, CHARLES HOUSE – VERY GOOD.*
- Mom of twins who are aged 11 and attend the home together - they have been attending for just over 6 months. Mom reported that they used to go to a play scheme for children with ADHD/Autism where they used to get bored, but they really enjoy and love coming here.

Good Things reported

- Young people enjoy better quality and more meaningful contact because of improving communication and behaviour management strategies.
- Managers and staff are keen to visit other providers and work in partnership with schools to look for and implement new ideas at the home.

What still needs to be done.

- Embed the communication framework and Makaton training. The newly qualified Makaton tutors will be running workshops for staff. Each home has a communication framework which they will tailor to each child, working closely with school and home.
- Ensure recording is fit for purpose and meaningful. Discussions are still taking place with health to tweak the new recording system at Edgewood Road so it is more meaningful but meets with the CQC requirements.
- Charles House is piloting a child friendly daily record which has been very successful and will be rolled out to other homes.
- Ensure the homes environments are fit for purpose. Decorating, repairs and maintenance schedules of work will continue to progress.
- Continue with providing appropriate transport for each home.

Accommodation/Placements

Narinder Saggu

Service Lead

Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Kalvinder Kohli
Head of Service

Prevention & Complex

The Care Leavers Accommodation and Support Framework

Policy and Lobbying



Services and young people



Positive Youth Accommodation Pathway



LA and VCS Partners



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Leeds
CITY COUNCIL**



**North Yorkshire
County Council**



**give homeless
young people
a future**



**Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid**

Care leavers Corporate Parenting Pathway Development

Supporters

Carer / residential worker

Social Worker / Personal adviser

Housing worker

Young Person's Pathway Plan: stages and options

1. Prepare for reality of housing options

Tenancy and life skills training schemes

Education including peer and from carers

Preparation for leaving custody

2. Plan young people's accommodation and support options with them

Training flats

Visit housing types

Family group conferencing for returns home and leaving custody

Staying Put

Involve young people in decision making and offer housing and support choice

3. Reduce housing crisis

Respite / short breaks

Staged exits from care

Short-term placements from custody

Family mediation

Plan early and have contingency plans in place to prevent crises from escalating

4. Access housing and support as needed

Short stay/Emergency
*Family/ Home setting, Nightstop
Short breaks
Short-term supported lodgings
Emergency assessment beds

High support
Family/ Home setting, Small units 24/7
Small group homes
Specialist supported lodgings
Housing First

Medium support
Family/ Home setting, Floating support
Specific accommodation leased by local authorities

Low support
Family/ Home setting
Shared houses with floating support
Peer landlords
On-call concierge

Commission a range of housing and support options with access for care leavers

5. Access and successfully manage longer-term move-on and support options

Suitable shared and self-contained options

Mixture of tenancy types available

Affordability checks and preparation

Support as needed to set up and sustain tenancy

Develop a range of move-on options
Work with landlords to reduce evictions
Work with partners to develop a range of housing options

Activity and approach

Identify and plan with young people on the framework

- Leaving Care 16-18 and 28+
- Leaving custody
- Out of authority
- UASC/ NRPF

Underlying principles – young people are:

Given as much information choice and control as possible

Able to make mistakes and never 'fall out' of the framework

Offered flexible support that adapts to meet their needs

Offered supportive and unconditional relationships

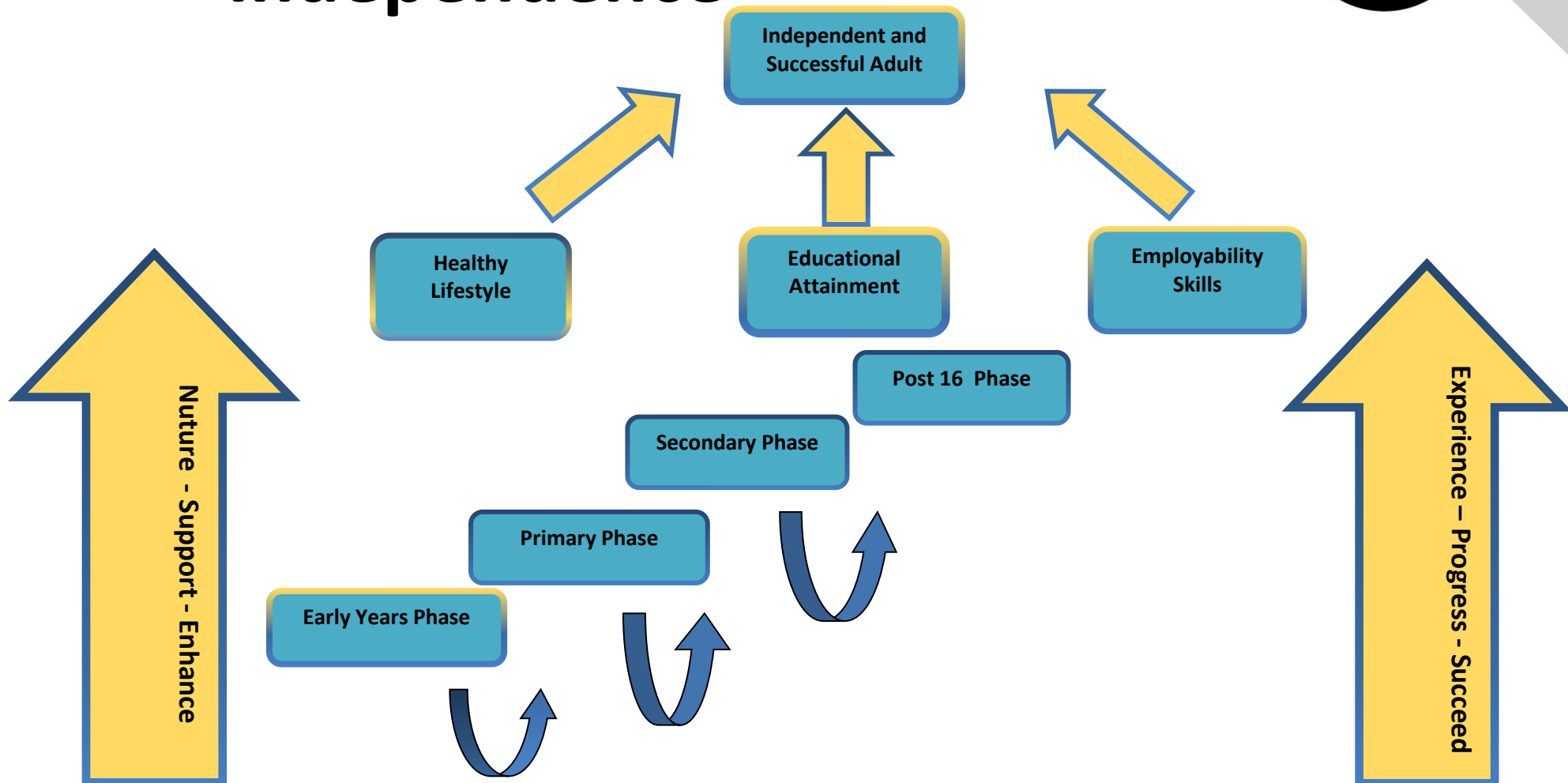
*Family/ Home setting – service include Fostering, adoption, Home to Home , Shared Lives

Taken from:
Care Leavers Accommodation and Support Framework
(Barnardos and St Basil's)

Developing Independent And Successful Adults

Andrew Wright
Head Teacher
Virtual School For Children In Care
25th January 20167

Inspiring For Independence



Birmingham Virtual School Going Success

Improving Opportunities Learning Tool Kit

**Raising
Aspirations
Programme**

**Learning
Links
Programme**

**Corporate
Parent
Mentoring**

**Personalised
Learning**

**Emotional
Well-Being**

Going For Success Programme



Improving Engagement Learning And Employment Pathways

- Attendance – Upward trend
- Exclusions
- Accessing Education
- Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance
- Academic Mentoring
- Rewards



Improving Educational Outcomes

- Targeted Intervention
- Quality Assurance Framework
- Electronic Personal Education Plans (e-PEP)
- Data Analysis – NCER National Programme
- School Partnerships
- RAP Programme
- Rewards



Improving Learning Outcomes Working In Partnership

