

Updated Corporate Parenting Strategy Priorities 2016-17

Involve Me

Priority 1: Children and young people are at the heart of decision making in relation to all aspects of their lives and are supported to make their views and wishes heard.

- The Children's Society to visit the Throughcare and Permanence Team, to identify good practice and gaps and barriers to improving participation in order to determine how to develop participation within this service
- Participation 'toolkit' to be developed to support practitioners to engage children and young people

Priority 2: There are a range of opportunities for children and young people to influence and shape service planning and delivery.

- Develop a shadow board of young people to the Corporate Parenting Committee
- Revisit and embed the Participation Strategy
- Participation Champion to be appointed for each service. The Participation Champion will attend the Participation Network and will champion participation within their service, sharing good practice, tools and techniques.

Priority 3: All staff have the knowledge and skills to engage with children and young people and encourage, promote and support their active participation.

- Plan and deliver participation training/ skills development for staff based on the gaps and needs in services
- Develop communication around participation to all staff to raise awareness and understanding
- Raise awareness of participation through November Children's Rights Month
- Develop a participation accreditation scheme linked to the participation standards to make it clear to agencies what good participation looks like and to raise the profile of participation across the partnership.

Provide me with a good, safe home

Priority 1: Improve the availability, quality and stability of local placements

- Continue to drive forward recruitment of in house foster carers with an increased focus on being able to offer diversity and specialist placements.
- Ensure that stability meetings are held in a prompt and timely manner if the placement appears to becoming unsettled.
- Redesign and re-commission our internal residential provision by 31 March 2017
- Maintain our named status on all NW cared for children accommodation frameworks and take an active role in re-commission and regional activity to monitor / quality assure

- Maintain an effective quality assurance framework with visits including Voice for Children. In 2016-17 extend quality assurance visits to in-house providers and Independent Fostering Agencies.
- Embed the Ignition approach to improve the offer, quality and strengthen the voice of children in decisions re 16+ accommodation and support.
- Ensure that the special educational needs and disability (SEND) strategy addresses the accommodation needs of cared for children and care leavers with disabilities, in particular, further development of the short breaks scheme and ensuring there is a transition plan for these young people into adult care.
- Further develop the quality assurance arrangements in relation to all placements including those we provide in house

Priority 2: Ensure that children and young people are fully engaged in decisions relating to their placement choice

- Children and young people to be consulted in terms of placement decisions and introductions made prior to placement whenever possible.
- Children and young people to be involved in consultation and understanding of the longer term plans for their future taking into account how they see their future.
- Contact for children and young people must remain a priority to ensure that children/young people can maintain safe links with their family and community.
- Ensure that the views of children with disabilities are heard and taken into account.

Priority 3: Ensure that only those children who have no alternative placement will reside in care

- All possibilities of care with extended family members should be fully explored with both parents/carers and the child whenever possible before a child is placed in care. These possibilities should continue to be explored once a child is in placement so if possible they can return to a family/extended family member.

Keep me healthy

Priority 1

Ensure that all Cheshire East cared for children have an initial health assessment within 20 days of entering care, an annual review assessment and a robust health care plan agreed

- Health and social care colleagues will work together to implement and monitor the agreed initial health assessment pathway.
- Improve the quality and timeliness of review health assessments.

Priority 2: Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of cared for children, young people and care leavers

- Working within a multi- agency group consider the recommendations made in a recent Cheshire East adoption research project and develop an action plan.

- Work within a multi-agency group to ensure effective pathway planning for care leavers including development of a new tool. Ensure the opportunity for self-completion of mental health screening using strengths and difficulties questionnaires for 16 & 17 year olds.
- Ensure that all cared for children and young people have an identified health practitioner contributing to the promotion of their health and wellbeing in line with statutory guidance.

Priority 3: Promote healthy lifestyles amongst all cared for children.

Plan and provide effective training for foster carers and personal advisors

- Encourage uptake of Everybody Free Leisure Passes.
- Encourage use of Cared for Health Your Health APP or leaflets for 14+ young people.

Priority 4: Ensure effective health transition planning

- Establish the role of 16+ and transition nurse in practice.
- Implement a process to provide all young people with health information as they leave care.

Help me to achieve

Priority 1: Ensure that schools are challenged and supported to help all children progress and achieve to their full potential

- Provide training and support to schools and social workers on the education needs of cared for children and how the Virtual School can support
- Revise PEP process to increase rigour around short and long term targets, monitoring of interventions and impact of support
- Establish headteachers reference group to monitor and help to develop the working of the Virtual School and agreed school actions
- Increase resilience by providing social and emotional support to children who need it through use of the SDQ scores
- Ensure that children with SEN are well supported and that services work closely to provide the support needed wherever these children are placed
- Extend the Quality Assurance of PEPs programme to include young people
- Provide training, support, challenge and encouragement to carers on the importance of having high expectations and aspirations

Priority 2: Improve the way that children move between schools so that this is timely, smooth and well supported

- Design, share and implement 'moving schools' protocols for children with/without SEN – young people to be include in the development of this
- Set protocol in motion as soon as a school move has been agreed as necessary with clear allocation of actions of each party
- Record the number of school moves and the time taken for a new school place to be allocated
- Ensure that children, schools, and carers are supported during the integration stage to give a successful start in the new school

Priority 3: Increase the number of children with excellent attendance and reduce the number of days lost through exclusions

- Monitor attendance each month and issue congratulation certificates for those who achieve 100% each term.
- Contact carers and social workers when attendance gives cause for concern and include attendance target in PEP in these cases
- Provide access for carers to Virtual School so that an exclusion avoidance plan can be put into place
- Introduce exclusion reduction protocol and put into place following period of exclusion
- Work with special schools to develop alternatives to exclusions
- Increase specialist support within the Virtual School to observe children and provide bespoke strategies for behaviour management and de-escalation techniques

Priority 4: Increase the number of young people who sustain transition from school to training and employment

- Ensure that all 16yr olds have a plan for progression by the end of Y11
- Provide a structured programme of events for 14 and 15yr olds that will develop employability skills, including registration with the National Apprentice Service
- Monitor the destinations of all 16-21yr olds each month
- Work with young people to identify support and interventions which would help them to move into training or employment
- Provide dedicated staff to support those who are NEET, giving intensive support where needed
- Commission or provide and then monitor programmes (eg Cygnet, young parents) to provide personal development opportunities for those not yet ready for work

Support me to move to adult life

Priority 1: Increase the number of young people aged 18-21 who are education, employment or training

- Revise PEPs to ensure that long term goals are included and actions are in place to meet these
- Ensure that all Y10 and Y11 pupils are registered on the Apprenticeship website and all those without firm Further Education plans are supported to make applications and participate in additional work experience
- Expand the Cygnet supported traineeship programme to include work placements outside the LA
- Analyse and target cohort who can work but who are not in work
- Employ EET champion to track all EET destinations for our Care Leaver population.

Priority 2: Prepare young people for independent living, to ensure young people have suitable accommodation and are able to live independently with limited support, and experience greater stability

- Tenancy Readiness Workshops
- Ignition panel
- Take up of 'taster flats'.
- Informed pathway plans with robust assessment

Priority 3: Young people have the skills and knowledge they need and can protect themselves from risk

- Work closely with all health agencies and lead for child sexual exploitation to monitor and address those most at risk of engaging in risky behaviour or vulnerable to exploitation to prevent poor outcomes in adulthood.
- Ensuring all young people have a NI card, citizenship, a bank account, passport, provisional driving licence, life story and access to records to form their identity and growing independence. Access to all health history, key documents, life story, ID, benefits, records, etc.
- Ensuring All 16+ young people have a SDQ and earlier pick up via referral to C&F support team