

Cheshire East - Children and Families, Care Matters – Stocktake Questionnaire

QUESTIONS - GENERAL	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
How many children are in the care of our Authority?	Quality Assurance Manager			432 cared for children as at 31/01/10 increased by 21.6% since April 2009. As at 28/02/10 - 430	Ongoing monitoring
What is their ethnic and cultural background?	Quality Assurance Manager			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * White British – 376 * White other – 10 * Gypsy/Roma Traveller – 2 * White/black Caribbean – 7 * White/black African – 2 * White/Asian – 1 * Other mixed background – 5 * Bangladeshi – 1 * Other Asian background – 11 * Black African – 1 * Other black background – 2 * Other ethnic group - 12 	Ongoing monitoring
Has your Authority set high aspirations for their outcomes and is progress regularly reviewed using both quantitative qualitative data?	Quality Assurance Manager		****	<p>The LA sets high aspirations for C4C in line with expectations for all other learners. Schools will, wherever possible use pupil level predictions to set individual targets for learners and schools will monitor and track progress to these targets. LA staff who directly support C4C will also set high expectations and provide motivational support.</p> <p>The LA is currently in the process of establishing a quarterly performance reporting process which is linked to the NI set and which provides regular reviews of</p>	Q3 process currently being reported. Timed

				performance of all learners. The recent Q3 return was RAG rated and the 3 C4C NIs – NI 99, 100 & 101 were identified as High Risk with a summary action plan produced which shows work streams to address potential underperformance – this process will be reported to lead members and full Council.	action plan produced for the 3 NIs
Have you developed a strategy for commissioning children's services in partnership with health, and other local agencies?	Business Support Manager		✓	While there are good relationships between key partners – a commissioning strategy has been requested by the Trust to be completed by the end of May. The Government is shortly to release details of a Sufficiency requirement that will need to be completed by March 2011.	March 2011
Has the Authority set up a Children in Care Council?	Safeguarding Manager	✓			
Do the Director and Lead Member regularly attend its meetings?			✓	Head of Service and lead Member are to be invited to attend at intervals.	April 2010
Does the Authority set an annual pledge on how it will improve its services to children in care?	Safeguarding Manager			A pledge has been drawn up by Children in Care Council which is to be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board.	April 2010
Do all children have an allocated social worker?	Cared for Children Manager	✓			
How does the Authority ensure children's views are taken into account on decisions that affect their lives?	Safeguarding Manager			This is not fully embedded in social work practice. Children's views are considered at Statutory Reviews through attendance or through other communication. The IRO meets or communicates with the child prior to the Statutory Review in approximately 50% of cases. Capacity prevents further development of this at present but is being addressed.	Ongoing
Do all children have a named Independent Reviewing Officer?	Safeguarding Manager	✓			

Are children allowed to take part in normal and age appropriate peer activities as would normally be granted by the parent to their peers?	Child Protection and Cared for Children Managers	✓			
Are children encouraged and enabled to make and sustain friendship with children of their own age, including being able to stay overnight in friends' households based on a reasonable assessment of risk (but without the requirements for CRB checks) in line with the Government guidance?	Child Protection and Cared for Children Managers	✓			


QUESTIONS - PLACEMENTS	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
What type of placement are children in – foster care, residential homes or secure units?	Quality Assurance Manager	✓		<p>As at 28/02/10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Placed with foster carers – 230 * Placed with foster carers (relative or friend) – 66 * Placed for adoption * Residential school – 7 * Residential home – 28 * Independent living – 13 * NHS – 1 * Mother & Baby Unit – 2 * Placed with parents at home – 63 * Secure Unit - 0 	
How does the Authority ensure emergency placements are only made in exceptional circumstances?	Child Protection and Children in Need Manager	✓		Through gatekeeping by a Senior Manager	

How many placement moves have children had in a year?	Quality Assurance Manager	✓		<p>This was last measured at the end of Q3 ie, as at 31/12/09 – looked after population was then 413.</p> <p>In the reporting year 1/04/09 to 31/12/09 37 children had 3 or more moves (9%), 51 children had 2 moves (13%). Looking back over previous 12 months the % rises to 12%.</p>	
Is the number who move 3 or more times a year reducing?			✓	<p>It has increased in this year – no previous data for Cheshire East. The service is developing a strategy for early identification of children where there is a risk of placement moves in order to direct support.</p>	June 2010
How many out of Authority placements are made?	Quality Assurance Manager			<p>As at February 2010, 120 placements are made with other agencies outside the LA boundary. Urgent action is being taken to bring children back into the LA boundary where it is appropriate, including dedicated time to assessment of foster carers and the opening of new children's homes. The sufficiency exercise mentioned above will assist in longer term planning for placements within the LA.</p>	October 2010

How does the Authority assess and review the quality of placements etc?	Safeguarding Manager and Business Support Manager			<p>The quality of placements is monitored by Independent Reviewing Officers.</p> <p>In addition, a Contracting Manager is to be appointed to ensure appropriate contracts are made that can and will be monitored by that manager.</p> <p>Cheshire East is also a member of Placements Northwest, which monitors provision by specific agencies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Are regular reviews held to ensure the placements are working well?	Safeguarding Manager	✓			
Is there a strong focus on training for foster carers to develop their skills and competencies?	Cared for Children Manager	✓		The Fostering Service has a comprehensive training strategy linked to the Children's Workforce Development Council standards.	Ongoing
Does the Authority provide a range of quality support services to carers and children to prevent placements breaking down?	Cared for Children Manager	✓		<p>The Multi Professional Support Team provides education and emotional health support to children and carers. This service is to be further developed through the appointment of a Head of Virtual School.</p> <p>In addition, there are other forms of support that are provided including respite care, carer support workers, cared for Children nurses etc.</p>	Ongoing
Do all foster carers have a named supervising social worker?	Cared for Children Manager	✓			
Do all residential staff receive training and development opportunities that equip them with the professional skills required to meet the needs of the children and the purpose of the setting?	Cared for Children Manager	✓		All staff complete a thorough Induction Programme and have training and development as a standard item on their supervision/ appraisal programme.	Ongoing

Does the Authority give children appropriate suitcases and boxes to move their belongings when they move placements?	Cared for Children Manager	✓		All young people have appropriate suitcases and boxes if they were to move placements.	
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QUESTIONS – EDUCATION	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
Does the Authority have a virtual school head (or senior official) who has responsibility for monitoring the progress of cared for children in school?	Strategy Manager		✓	The LA has a senior official with responsibility for monitoring the progress of cared for children. The post of Head of Virtual School has been advertised and an appointment will be made.	September 2010
Have all schools appointed a designated teacher?	Strategy Manager		✓	Most schools have now identified a Designated Teacher; remaining schools are now doing so. Training for Designated Teachers has begun.	April 2010
How many children attend school regularly and how many are excluded from school? Is this number going down?	Quality Assurance Manager	✓		Children attend school regularly. At Jan 2010, no children were excluded. 3 children were not on school rolls but were receiving alternative packages. 5 other children were on school role but receiving alternative opackages.	

<p>What progress are children making and what are their tests scores and examination results?</p> <p>Are these going up?</p> <p>Is the gap between them and their peers reducing?</p>	Quality Assurance Manager		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>The nature, size and volatility of the C4C cohort means that the analysis of trends over time is difficult. Overall 2009 performance for L4+ in English and Maths at KS2 and 5+A*-C inc E&M at KS4 was down on 2008 results. A very detailed analysis of the 2009 performance has been undertaken as individual circumstances have to be looked at when comparing attainment rates. In addition, the three actions plans also show the story behind the data and provide the priority actions which are currently being undertaken.</p>	<p>See action plans</p>  <p>NI Risk Indicators - High Risk...</p>
Does the Authority use the £500 Personal Education Allowance to support every child who does not reach the expected standard?	Cared for Children Manager	✓			
Are children in care prioritised to receive one-to-one tuition?	Cared for Children Manager, Head of Virtual School	✓		<p>The 1:1 Tuition programme has been established using a detailed analysis of data and priority areas. Rather than include C4C within an overall vulnerable learners programme, a separate process has been set up led by specialist LA staff who have worked directly with schools to match the 1:1 Tuition programme to the needs of individual schools. This matching has identified 40 initial C4C programmes with a further 10-15 places to be established this term. Initial feedback from schools and LA staff is that there is very positive results for individual learners.</p>	<p>1:1 programmes currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Further programmes to be established in Feb/March</p>
Does the Authority pay a £2,000 bursary to all care leavers who undertake a designated course of higher education?	Leaving Care Manager	✓			

QUESTIONS - HEALTH	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
Is there effective coordination and commissioning of health services, including CAMHS?	Business Support Manager, Cared for Children Manager			<p>This is partially met. The service works with Designated Doctors and Cared for Children Nurses in co-ordinating health provision to children.</p> <p>The Multi Professional Support Team provides support for the emotional health of children. The service is to review CAMHS provision.</p>	Oct 2010
Do strategies to address health inequalities and health promotion, include specific actions to support children in care?	Cared for Children manager	✓		Health promotion is an integral part of	
Are all children registered with a GP and have access to a dentist?	Cared for Children Manager	✓			
Are all foster carers given basic training on health, hygiene issues and first aid, with a particular emphasis on health promotion and communicable diseases?	Cared for Children Manager	✓		Addressed in the foster care training strategy	
Are there systems in place to monitor whether the health needs of children: placed out of Authority; disabled children; black and minority ethnic children are being met?	Safeguarding Manager	✓		Independent Reviewing Officers monitor the health needs of children.	Ongoing
Do leaving care services ensure that health and access to positive activities are included as part of young people's pathway planning?	Leaving Care Manager	✓			

QUESTIONS – MISSING FROM CARE/OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
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How many children run away or otherwise have gone missing from residential care and foster care?	Safeguarding Manager	✓		<p>Statistics are collected by police and shared on a monthly basis. In Oct 2007, 9 children reported missing from residential care, 2 children from foster care.</p> <p>In Oct 2009, 5 children from residential care and 5 from foster care.</p> <p>A working group monitors progress against NI71.</p>	Ongoing
Are there strong protocols in place with the Police when children go missing, in line with national guidance?	Safeguarding Manager	✓			
Are there particular processes and systems in place to identify and safeguard children suspected of being trafficked into the country?	Safeguarding Manager		✓	A multi-agency group led by the police has met to discuss this issue and work is currently underway to establish appropriate protocols and procedures.	May 2010
How many children are involved in offending behaviour?	Youth Offending Service Manager, Cared for Children Manager			6 children committed offences in the 3 rd quarter of 2009, compared with 10 in the first quarter.	April 2010
What action is the Authority taking in partnership with other agencies to reduce this?		✓		Cheshire has a successful YOS that deals with all young people who offend.	Ongoing

QUESTIONS – CARE LEAVERS	LEAD PERSON	MET	NOT MET	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
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How many young people leave care at the ages of 16, 17 and 18? Is the number reducing?	Quality Assurance Manager		✓	As at end of January 2010 there were 5 16/17 year olds who have left care – this number is reducing. There were 32 18 year olds as at 31/01/10, 25 of which left at 18 (78%) with 7 (22%) leaving before 18 th birthday. In the previous year there were 23 18 year olds, 13 (57%) left at 18 with 10 (43%) leaving before their 18 th birthday	
What are their ethnic and cultural backgrounds?	Leaving Care Manager			Of the 89 young people: 76 White British 1 White Irish 3 White Other 4 Other Mixed Background 1 White and Black Caribbean 1 Black African 3 Other Ethnic Groups	
How much is spent on after care services, including direct financial assistance to care leavers?	Leaving care Manager			TBC	
Does each care leaver have a pathway plan which takes account of their views and is regularly reviewed?	Leaving Care Manager	✓		All 18 year old plans are reviewed by a Pathway Plan Co-ordinator, 16 & 17 year olds are reviewed by IROs under R2BC4 project	
Do local commissioning strategies involve agencies and ensure that care leavers have a range of suitable supported accommodation options?	Cared for Children Manager		✓	There is a lack of suitable accommodation in some parts of the Authority. Some young people are provided with accommodation by agencies. A new strategy is to be developed to provide more suitable accommodation within the LA boundary.	Sep 2010
How many care leavers live in suitable accommodation in line with national guidance? Is this number going up each year?	Quality Assurance Manager			This years NI 147 is 95% compared to 95% last year	

How many care leavers participate in employment, education, or training?	Quality Assurance Manager	✓		This years NI 148 is 63% compared to 57% last year	
Is this number going up each year?					
Has your local Authority signed up to the <i>From Care2Work Programme</i> ?	Workforce Development Manager	✓			