

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF 2018 – 2020 SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT

Proposed Actions

This action plan will be updated and added to on a quarterly basis.

Standard of Excellence: All children are placed in the local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their needs and welfare.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
Develop Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) Signs of Safety approach	April 2018 onwards	Weekly RAP meetings taking place (incl SoS mapping, step out of residential etc)
Redesign our edge of care support structures / resources	July 2018	New Team manager in place across edge of care teams and statement of purpose to be reviewed and written
Continue to market shape and undertake procurement activity to further develop local provision	Ongoing	Collaborative Provider Forum operating, regular market engagement leading to improved sufficiency. Procurement activity – CWD care at home framework, MH & LD accommodation and support, Children’s Home commission, Ignition developments, children’s mental health redesign, mentoring etc
Put in place a Home Based Care Framework for children with a disability in order to strengthen the support at home rather than needs escalating and requiring more specialist services	October 2018	New all age Care at Home Framework (Dynamic Purchasing System) in place from November 2018. Award letters sent 22 October 2018
Standard of Excellence: All children with a plan of adoption are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that plan being approved.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
To increase the number of adopters for the children coming through the care planning process in each LA.	Ongoing	Recruitment Strategy under development
To deliver a marketing campaign that will reach more adopters for BME children and sibling groups.	Ongoing	Recruitment Strategy under development. Voluntary organisations already requested to support specific family finding
Develop a tracking systems that will ensure all children who potentially may be adopted are tracked through the process avoiding delays	Ongoing	RAA Strategic Planning group hold monthly meetings to track children. RAA lead attends Permanency Forum every other month with frontline teams.
Adoption Counts successfully develop an adoption support Centre of Excellence offering an improved support offer across the region to all adopters in need of professional advice/input	April 18	RAA – centre of excellence

Standard of Excellence: There is a diverse range of universal, targeted and specialist services working together to meet children’s needs, including children and young people who are already looked after as well as those at risk of becoming looked after or in custody.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To continue to review the Early Help offer, ensuring the JSNA is updated and utilised	2018-19	JSNA Forward Plan
To continue to develop CHAPS meetings with partners	April 2018 onwards	At least quarterly meetings of provider / police / CEC operational & commissioning officers taking place
To target @CT resource to support families on the edge of care or custody	July 2018	New team manager in place and development of statement of purpose

Standard of Excellence: Our Children’s Trust (including housing) work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and to support the continuity of education or accommodation beyond the age of 18.

Action	Timeframe	Update
NEET Panel (Based on the Ignition Model)		This is the NEET challenge panel that is held on a monthly basis. Children’s Social Care and Virtual School representation.
Develop the Taster Flat Provision across Macclesfield, Congleton and Middlewich	Ongoing	Two further Ignition flats secured first quarter of 2018-19. P3 developing taster provision in Macclesfield / Congleton Q3 and Q4
CE Quality Assurance Visits to all 16+ provision	2019-20	Placements North West continue to conduct 16+ QA on behalf of the region. CE to supplement with own visits
Independent living skills – targeted work with 15 & 16 year olds in residential and FC placements	Ongoing	There is a targeted training offer delivered by our Care Leavers service around planning for independence for our children in foster care. For children in residential care, the care plan and option of attending Ignition panel early are ways in which we target early transition and preparation for adulthood.
Increase the number of individual tenancies	Ongoing	Ignition continues to grow and is a significant support to cared for / care leavers. Priority band B has been agreed for care leavers and therefore opens up Home Choice tenancies even further. Q4 – housing strategy group to establish a vulnerable persons project which extends the Ignition approach and increases access to tenancies
Increase the range of 16+ provision across the borough working with local residential providers	Ongoing	Promoted at Provider Forum and staying close will feature within new Children’s Home commission

Standard of Excellence: Services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children and young people including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies.
Standard of Excellence: Services are situated across the local authority area to reflect geographical distribution of need

Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase the number of Foster Carers who can provide short break provision for children with disabilities	Ongoing	Small increase in respite carers. Retained specialist carers for children with disabilities and will form part of the foster4 collaboration recruitment and retention strategy
Increase the number of Foster Carers for our teenage age group	Ongoing	Will be part of the collaboration recruitment and retention strategy
Re-commission residential provision	2018-19	Out to tender from May 2018 for 5 Children's Homes (13 beds). Indicative timeline for tender award is January 2019. This Care Hub will include short stay and an emphasis on step down to fostering and return to family with an holistic assessment of the child's needs.
Increase the emergency provision offer	2018-19	Two well established emergency beds at Crewe YMCA (double up as PACE beds). Emergency beds recently increased at P3 Watermill (Macclesfield).
Develop a step down Foster Care provision	2018-19	New Care Hub (Children's Home commission) is designed around step down to fostering / return to family

Standard of Excellence: In addition to meeting relevant National Minimum Standards, services are of a quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care planning process for children and young people.

Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase the number of pre-placement visits	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate and best use of planning time
Develop the use of Reg. 44 reports	Ongoing	Part of QA visit preparation and social worker notification linked to QA
Report Quality Assurance themes to Social Care Leadership Team	2018-19	Report planned for Q3
Develop 16+ Quality Assurance	2019-20	Placement North West continue to conduct 16+ Quality Assurance on behalf of the region. CE to supplement with own visits
Launch the electronic Individual Placement Agreement (IPA)	2018-19	Implemented Q1
Drop in/unannounced visits by Commissioners	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate
Yearly IPA reviews for all long term placements	Ongoing	

Standard of Excellence: Universal services know when a child or young person is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support them, including placement providers.

Standard of Excellence: Placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To develop the Provider Forums with Partners	Ongoing	
To review the membership of RAP on a regular basis and ensure communication is effective	Ongoing	RAP is effective and continually reviewed
Standard of Excellence: There are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase in the number of joint visits with Commissioning and Social Workers to placements prior to placement offers	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate and best use of planning time
Develop greater links between Early Help and Providers within Cheshire East	2018-19	See new Early Help Framework. Children's mental health workshop with early help providers (with a focus on cared for children)
Develop partnerships and links local providers	Ongoing	Commissioning have strong links with providers and partners and have delivered sector led improvement. Ignition short listed for national award re: partner excellence
Standard of Excellence: The local authority and the Children's Partnership collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for children in care and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
To explore further opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring authorities in order to manage the market for residential care and Leaving Care more effectively	2019-20	Early discussions held with NW commissioners and sub-region. Plan in earnest when children's home commission mobilised. There is a commissioning work stream as part of the foster4 collaboration which is exploring opportunities to collaborate within the independent market.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCORECARD FOR CARED FOR CHILDREN'S ACCOMMODATION

Key performance measures to supplement those included in service scorecards:

No.	Measure	2018-2019				Target	Comment
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1	Actions in published sufficiency statement reviewed	Yes	Yes			Qtly review	
2	% of cared for children accommodated beyond 20 miles	24%	23%			10%	When you take out placed with family / friends, adoption and long term foster care % = 13%
3	% of cared for children in external agency placements that are rated good or outstanding	93%	98%			100%	
4	Number of cared for children in external agency placements rated inadequate	1	0			0	TCA moved early to his adult supported living arrangement
5	Average weekly cost of external agency placements: Residential IFA	£3561 £797	£3724 £798			£3200 £760	Complexity of individual children and difficult market conditions
7	% occupancy level for commissioned residential	67%	67%			95%	1 home operational. Match difficult to utilise 3 rd bed
8	Contracts in place for external agency placements	100%	100%			100%	
9	Individual Placement Agreements for external agency placements which provide bespoke outcomes for cared for children	90%	94%			100%	
10	At least one compliance visit undertaken pa for each cared for child in an external agency placement	100%	100%			100%	