

Children Looked After Strategic Action Plan 2014- 17

Key Outcome	Action	Lead	By when?	Progress	RAG
No child to become looked after unless this is in their best interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to any child becoming looked after, conduct a multi- agency assessment to ensure this is in the best interest of the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care 	Ongoing review/ assessment		
Review use of SGO/ CAO as an alternative to care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote permanency for CLA by increasing the number of SGOs/ CAOs and Adoption • Review procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Manager Lancaster/ Wyre/ Fylde/ Legal Services/ Finance/ Children's Social Care SMT 	June 2015		
Staying Put Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review policy and procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Manager Preston/ Chorley/ South Ribble Children's Social Care SMT 	June 2015		
Children Looked After have high quality placements tailored to their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Sufficiency Strategy • Appropriately commissioned placements are available • A choice of 3 placements are offered • CLA are able to visit accommodation prior to decision making • Where possible, CLA are offered a placement close to their home and school (if appropriate) • LINX members are able to influence commissioning of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Well Commissioning Services • Children's Social • LINX 	<p>March 2016</p> <p>March 2016</p>		

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	provision				
Lancashire has a range of placements and residential staff and foster carers with the most appropriate skills and experiences to meet the needs of Children Looked After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Sufficiency Strategy • Develop a robust Foster Carer recruitment strategy • Implement a Foster Care Recruitment campaign • Provide a range of support and training to foster carers • Maintain and develop Performance review of foster carers • Residential Staff and placements are Judged to be Ofsted 'Good' or 'Outstanding' • Use Young Inspectors to monitor provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Well Commissioning/ Fostering/ Adoption • Residential Services • Strategic Lead for Participation 	March 2016		
Value for money and high quality placements to meet the needs of children with complex needs or those requiring specialist placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Sufficiency Strategy • Development of joint commissioning approach for specialist placements and placements for CYP with complex needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Well Commissioning/ Inclusion and Disability Support Services 	April 2016		
Improved school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the role of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School Head 	September		

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attendance and attainment for children looked after and care leavers	<p>Virtual School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early allocation of school support worker to coordinate EPEPs • Comprehensive EPEPs are completed • Improve numbers of CLA and Care Leavers gaining 5 A*- Cs 		2015		
Personalised education for CLA to maximise their educational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children looked after for 3 months or more have an up to date PEP which reflects the needs of the pupil/ student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School Head 			
Carers prioritise attendance at school and problems are identified at an early stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEPs are reviewed by IROs • Designated Governor for CLA in schools • Procedures and protocols are agreed to ensure that school changes are minimised and do not take place at critical stages • Requirements regarding education will be written into all care plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reviewing Officers • Virtual Headteacher • Governor Services 	September 2015		
Foster Carers are able to access early years provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate information is provided to carers of young children to outlining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering • Wellbeing/ Prevention and Early Help 	September 2015		

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	available services				
To improve health outcomes for all children looked after by Lancashire, placed within or out of county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Needs Assessment to be completed within specified timescales Review of Health Assessments Consistent CLA Nursing Record if YP doesn't want/ need support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start Well Commissioning Public Health 	April 2016	% CLA with an Individual Health Action Plan % of children and young people have completed a personal health assessment and dental check	
Improved emotional wellbeing of children looked after by Lancashire. (including out of county)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scayt+ to be accessed as necessary Completion of My Goals See Health and Wellbeing Board Actions (in development) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing/ Prevention and Early Help Health and Wellbeing Boards- Health Equity, Welfare and Partnerships 	April 2016 April 2016		
To promote a healthy lifestyle now and after leaving care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health promotion information is appropriately targeted in all placements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual health Substance misuse Alcohol misuse Smoking cessation Domestic Abuse Healthy relationships Sport and leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health- CLA Nurses Children's Social Care Young People's Service Residential Homes Fostering Service 			
Improve health outcomes for children looked after with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be placed with appropriately trained/ skilled carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and Disability Support Services Children's Social Care 	April 2016	Identify baseline of those children with complex needs	

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complex needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of carers to provide this service • Provide appropriate respite care • Commissioning of appropriate services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning- Start Well 			
Increase the numbers of looked after young people accessing a range of personal and social development activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer activities • Youth Provision • Lancashire pack to be devised to promote activities to CLA/ Care Leavers • All CLA to be able to attain accreditation through the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness Course (CoPE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Partnership Boards/ District Councils • Young People's Service 	July 2015		
<p>Develop a systematic engagement framework to enable young people who are looked after to have a voice in the design and delivery of services</p> <p>Develop a systematic engagement framework to influence their care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and formalise the participation of all young people looked after in developing services to meet their needs • Maintain and develop the role of Young Inspectors • Ensure the views of all ages of CLA are represented and are equally represented of their placement type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • Strategic Lead for Participation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Inspectors • Power (Participation group for children and young people with Special 	May 2015		

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plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of CLA/ Leaving Care Strategies • Continued development of LINX Children in Care Council) • Continued participation of CLA on Corporate Parenting Board • Promote the role of the Corporate Parenting Board 	Educational Needs and Disabilities- SEND) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LINX 			
Ensure children looked after are consulted and are able to influence the range of provision and activities provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer activities are promoted via foster carers and residential homes • Annual events to celebrate the success of CLA/ care leavers Annual awareness raising event • Increase age range and diversity of young people participating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Lead for Participation • Young People's Service • Children's Partnership Boards • Children's Social Care • Fostering • Residential Services 	July 2015		
To ensure that all young people receive training and preparation when applying for jobs in the market place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the number of young people who receive work based training and support. • Young people are prepared/ remain in employment • Number of YP on training/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • Virtual School • Employment Support Team 	April 2016		

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	apprenticeship scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of CLA/ Care Leavers in EET • CLA/ Care Leavers are made aware of LCC training/ mentoring opportunities 				
To ensure that any planning for the future needs of young people begins at an early stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA reviews incorporate Pathway Planning preparation • Pathway Plans are in place at the point of leaving care and are thorough and up to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Advisors • Children's Social Care 	April 2016		
To reduce the duplication of information collated about young people and ensure good communication between all parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of social workers involved • All information relating to a young person is fully up to date on LCS • My Goals documentation completed at an early stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • Performance, Development and Review Officers • Audit Team 	April 2016		
CLA reviews are completed appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reviewing Officers conduct CLA/ Leaving Care Reviews in the allocated timescales • Independent Reviewing Officers will routinely check Skills Checklists as part of Pathway Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reviewing Officers • Children's Social Care • Performance, Development and Review Officers • Audit Team 	December 2015		
Effective remand	Youth Offending Team and Children's			YOT/CSC remand	

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Management	<p>Social Care to work together to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the most appropriate remand placement is provided to meet the young person's needs and manage risk. Ensure the young person is assessed using both AssetPlus and C&F assessments. Provide support and services based on assessed need. Support young people in transition from the remand placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Youth Offending Service Head of Children's Social Care 	March 2016	management working agreements in place, reviewed in April 2015.	
Performance Indicators	<p>Performance data in relation to CLA is collated and recorded on a monthly basis. Lancashire Performance Reports are located Here</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance, Development and Review Officers Audit Team 	Ongoing		
Care Leavers					
Staying Put Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying Put Policy and Procedure is fully updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Social Care 	June 2015		
Reduce numbers of Homeless young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lancashire Homelessness and Housing Strategy is refreshed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy Development Officer Children's Social Care District Housing Teams Housing Providers 	December 2015 April 2016		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential for vacant properties to be utilised as additional accommodation for care leavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Well Commissioning • Lancashire County Council • Preston City Council • Community Gateway Housing Association 			