

EVERY CHILD MATTERS: STAYING SAFE



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FIVE OUTCOMES OF EVERY CHILD MATTERS



- ◆ Staying Safe
- ◆ Be Healthy
- ◆ Enjoy and Achieve
- ◆ Make a Positive Contribution
- ◆ Achieve Economic Wellbeing

PURPOSE



⌘ The purpose of the presentation today is to advise Members of the Corporate Parenting Board of the key issues affecting children looked after under the Stay Safe agenda.

STAY SAFE AGENDA



Children and young people are

- ◆ Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- ◆ Safe from accidental injury and death
- ◆ Safe from bullying and discrimination
- ◆ Safe from crime and anti social behaviour in and out of school
- ◆ Have security, stability and are cared for.

NATIONAL AGENDA



- ⌘ The Utting Report 'People Like Us' 1997
- ⌘ The Warner Report 'Choosing with Care' 1992
- ⌘ The Waterhouse Report 'Lost in Care' 2000

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION



REGULATES

- ⌘ Council's Children's Services
- ⌘ Foster Care
- ⌘ Children's Homes
- ⌘ Adoption Services

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?



- ◆ Cars, roads, terrorists, kidnappers, people giving you drugs, getting left behind, bullying, food poisoning, drowning, other accidents and falls and getting lost
- ◆ Being dumped with people you don't know
- ◆ You get the mick taken out of you at school when they find out you are in foster care
- ◆ It is important for people to ask how safe you are.
 - Safeguarding Children: The Second Joint Chief Inspectors Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children, 2005

WHAT DO CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER NEED?



- ◆ Access to reliable and trusted adults so that the child's views and concerns are recognised
- ◆ Actively consulting and involving children, parents and carers in decision making
- ◆ Access to child friendly and effective complaints procedures and advocacy arrangements.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS



- ◆ Thresholds and procedures for child protection
- ◆ Procedures for allegations against staff and carers
- ◆ Whistleblowing policy
- ◆ Regular inspection process for fostering and adoption services and residential care,
- ◆ Regular audits, spot checks and supervision.
- ◆ Contract with National Youth Advocacy Service delivering independent advocacy and support
- ◆ Contract with Spurgeons to deliver Independent Visitors for all children who do not have contact with their families.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS



- ⌘ Recently strengthened role of Independent Reviewing Officers aims to improve safeguarding for looked after children. They have responsibility to ensure:
 - ☑ Effective care planning
 - ☑ The child and family's access to advocacy and the complaints procedure as appropriate.
 - ☑ The power to refer cases back to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) who could take the case back to court on behalf of the child.

PLACEMENT STABILITY AND SECURITY PERFORMANCE



INDICATOR	2003/04	2004/05
A1 The percentage CLA with three or more placements during the year	12.1%	10.1%
D35 The percentage CLA looked after continuously for at least 4 years who are currently in foster placement where they have spent at least two years	63%	55%
C23 The number of children adopted during the year as a percentage of the number of CLA who had been looked after for 6 months or more.	8.4%	14.9%

DEVELOPMENTS FOR PLACEMENT STABILITY



- ◆ Development of support care/respice care scheme to maintain placements for children looked after
- ◆ Dedicated manager for out of area placements and preferred provider arrangements
- ◆ Banded Payment Scheme for foster carers based on skills and competence to ensure assessed needs of children are matched with appropriate carers.
- ◆ Development of a South Tees Specialist Fostering Scheme providing intensive support and wraparound care

SAFE FROM CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND INJURY



- ◆ Information sharing and Joint Working Protocol with Youth Offending Service
- ◆ Bullying policies and procedures for residential care
- ◆ Guidance on managing bullying and discrimination included in foster carers handbook
- ◆ Personal Education Plans address any issues on bullying and discrimination in education

SAFE FROM CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND INJURY



- ◆ All assessments of foster carers include a health and safety assessment and safety equipment provided as required
- ◆ All children's homes have health and safety regulations which are subject to inspection
- ◆ Risk assessments completed for all outings and activities
- ◆ Reporting procedures and protocols for children missing from placement