

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
5th MARCH 2009**

**DRAFT CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER STRATEGY
PART 2**

**COUNCILLOR MIKE CARR – EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING**

**GILL ROLLINGS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Corporate Parenting Board part 2 of the draft Children Looked After Strategy and the associated action plan (See Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND

2. Central government requires local authorities to keep services for children looked after as a key focus for their resources and sets clear targets and performance indicators in respect of these services. The Children and Young Person's Bill (third reading, October 2008) was developed following consultation on the Care Matters White Paper and will give Local Authorities a range of new duties and powers in relation to delivering services to looked after children. This strategy has been developed in light of the provisions of this forthcoming legislation. The overall purpose of the strategy is to assess current provision for looked after children and to define the strategic priorities for those children and young people.

3. The strategy sets out the council's priorities for looked after children in two parts, part one of which was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in June 2008 and focused primarily on measures intended to prevent children becoming looked after. Part Two aims to set out how the council, as a corporate parent, aims to meet the holistic needs of children and young people who are looked after.
4. An analysis of the data clearly indicates:
 - Educational outcomes for looked after children and young people are below the national average and that of statistical neighbours.
 - The stability of placements has been strong and is being maintained.
 - Too many young people are being placed outside of council boundaries.
 - The number of looked after children is significantly higher than our statistical neighbours and has continued to rise.
 - Performance in meeting the health needs of looked after children is good.

STRATEGIC PRIOTIRIES FOR 2009/2010

5. Based on our performance against government targets, data analysis of local need and the requirements of Care Matters, five strategic priorities have been identified for the coming year:
 - To ensure the council, as a corporate parent, is proactive in meeting the needs of children and young people in care.
 - To maintain, and build on, the improvements in the health and wellbeing of children looked after.
 - To improve the educational attainment of children and young people in care.
 - To deliver the Care Matters agenda.
 - To ensure young people have a successful transition to adulthood.
6. An action plan has been developed to address these priorities and is attached as Appendix 1. The main emphasis is on improving the educational outcomes of children looked after; maintaining performance in ensuring placement stability and addressing the health needs of children and young people looked after.

OPTIONAL APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

7. Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. There is currently a review of Fostering allowances that will impact on this strategy, the outcome of which will be presented to Corporate Parenting Board at a later date. Services to looked after children cover all wards so this report will be of interest to all members.

RECOMMENDATION

9. It is recommend that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to endorse this strategy, which aims to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people looked after and those leaving care.

REASONS

10. Middlesbrough Council has a clear statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people looked after. This strategy is intended to ensure that the council can fulfil those statutory duties as efficiently and effectively as possible.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Care Matters - Time for Change (DfES 2007)
- Children and Young Person's Bill 2008

AUTHOR: Jane Young
Team Manager Leaving Care Service
TEL NO: 01642 354101

Address: 3 Park Road North, Middlesbrough
Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>

**CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER
STRATEGY Part 2
ACTION PLAN
2008 – 2009**

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescale
1.0 To ensure that children looked after and care leavers are the primary focus for the resources and accountability of the local authority					
1.1 Services and facilities are in place to meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers.	Monitor and review expenditure on services for children looked after and care leavers across the Council.	Independent inspections identify services for children looked after and care leavers as being 'good'.	Middlesbrough Council	Existing budgets	Ongoing - review on a quarterly basis
2.0 To ensure that children looked after and care leavers have a clear understanding of what services and facilities they can expect from the local authority.					
2.1 Children looked after and care leavers will be given clear information about the services and support that they can expect to receive from the local authority and its partners.	The Council's Pledge will be developed and linked to individual care plans.	The Pledge is in place and used in developing care plans.	The Executive Corporate Parenting Board Corporate Management Team Middlesbrough Children's Trust	Existing budgets & Care Matters grant	Pledge framework to be agreed by March 2009 and reviewed on an annual basis
3.0 To ensure that clear mechanisms are in place for involving children looked after and care leavers in decision-making processes with regard to service delivery and strategic planning.					
3.1 Children looked after and care leavers can engage in an open dialogue with senior officers and elected Members about services.	A 'Children in Care Council' (or similar forum) to be developed in conjunction with children and young people.	An influential forum is in place & Children and Young People are engaged in a dialogue with elected Members and Service Managers that impacts on decision-making.	Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning Corporate Parenting Board	Existing budgets Care Matters Grant	Ongoing - review on an annual basis

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescale
3.2 Children looked after and care leavers are aware of opportunities for involvement.	Information to be circulated to all children and young people.	Children and Young People report their awareness of opportunities for involvement.	All staff in CF&L and partner agencies.	Existing systems & personnel	Ongoing - review on an annual basis
3.3 Children looked after and care leavers are involved in service planning processes.	All service areas to make clear within their annual performance plans how they involve Children and Young People in their work and their plans for involvement in the coming year.	Service plans include clear reference to the views of Children and Young People and how those views have impacted upon service delivery.	All Service Managers and Team Managers Assistant Director Safeguarding	Existing systems & personnel	Ongoing - review on an annual basis
4.0 To ensure that children looked after and care leavers are given the highest possible priority in strategic planning processes and that those processes are fully accountable to Members.					
4.1 Strategic plans across the Council identify the support given to meeting the needs of children looked after and care leavers	Monitor and review strategic plans across the Council	All plans and strategies clearly identify how services benefit children looked after and care leavers	Middlesbrough Children's Trust Middlesbrough Partnership Middlesbrough Council	Existing systems & personnel	Ongoing - review on a quarterly basis
4.2 The Corporate Parenting Board receives regular reports on strategic plans as they relate to children looked after and care leavers.	Relevant elements of strategic plans to be submitted to Corporate Parenting Board	Reports submitted to Corporate Parenting Board at least annually.	Middlesbrough Children's Trust Middlesbrough Partnership Middlesbrough Council	Existing systems & personnel	Ongoing – review on an annual basis

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescale
5.0 Health and Well Being of Children and Young People in Care					
<p>5.1 All looked after children and young people are immunised, have regular health screening, dental and optical checks.</p>	<p>All CLA are offered annual/biannual health assessments as per government guidelines promoting the health of Looked After Children (DOH 2002).</p> <p>All Health Visitors/School Nurses record immunisations status/ optical assessments at each annual health assessment.</p>	<p>NI 50 – NI 58</p>	<p>CFL Health (MRCCS)</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>To continue to deliver Middlesbrough Alcohol and Drug Initial Assessment Tool to Looked After Children and Young People aged eight and over to improve the identification of children and young people affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>NI 58</p>	<p>CFL Platform</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescale
5.0 Health and Well Being of Children and Young People in Care					
5.1 (continued) All looked after children and young people are immunised, have regular health screening, dental and optical checks.	All children and young people who are aged 4 – 16 years and have been looked after 12 months and more will have strengths and difficulties questionnaire completed.	NI 50 NI 58	CFL	Existing resources	March 2009
	Continuing liaising between LAC Nurse and Patient Advice Liaison Services (PALS).		CFL Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Dental health promotion pack, to be provided to children/young people looked after.	Promoting Health 2002	CFL Health	Community budget	August 2009
	Dental health promotion team to deliver dental health education to children and young people in local residential care.	Promoting Health 2002	CFL Health	Training	Progressing at least annually
	Clarification is required when a dentist opts out of NHS		CFL Health	Budget implication	

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescale
<p>5.2 All Looked After Children and young people have an outcome based health plan in place that is regularly reviewed.</p>	<p>To continue to quality assure every child and young person's health assessment/plans.</p>	<p>Promoting health document 2002</p>	<p>Health LAC Nurse</p>	<p>Existing budget</p>	<p>August 2009</p>
	<p>Ongoing consultation with children/young people on the health assessment process.</p>	<p>Care Matters promoting health document 2002</p>	<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing budget</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>Continue with ongoing training for health professionals</p>		<p>Health</p>	<p>Existing budget</p>	<p>Strategy implemented</p>
	<p>To ensure where a child's parents/siblings have died, their cause of death must be ascertained and shared with examining doctor/s.</p>		<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing budget</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>Doctors to ensure they ask about the full family medical histories of CLA at medical consultations.</p>		<p>Health</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency And Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
5.3 Looked After Children are provided with guidance and support that promotes healthy living.	Continual annual update via named Social Worker to individual child's assessment and Care Plan documents identifying guidance and support which promotes healthy living.	NI 50 NI 55 NI 56 NI 57 NI 58	CFL Health	Existing budget	Annual strategy in place
	Continued provision of age appropriate health promotion/information provided and recorded in health assessment documentation performed by Health Visitor and School Nurse.		CFL Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Development of a dedicated young person's health promotion room.		CFL Health	Care Matters grant Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Continued foster care training to improve healthy lifestyle/outcomes for CLA.		CFL Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Pamper sessions provided to children and young people to promote self-esteem.		CFL Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Pathways to continue to deliver a package of activities/guidance/support to young people to promote healthy living, includes:-		CFL Health	Existing resources Youth Opportunities Fund	Strategy in place To progress throughout year September 2008 – 2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After Care Group - Self-esteem Group - Independence Group 				

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency And Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
<p>5.4 Looked After Children and young people are given advice and support in accessing appropriate local health services.</p>	<p>Consultation exercise with children and young people to ascertain their views around advice/support regarding health.</p>	<p>NI 50 NI 51 NI 57 NI 58</p>	<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>Continued open access to LAC Nurse including Chlamydia screening, C card, sexual advice etc.</p>		<p>Health</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>Continued annual update via named Social Worker to individual child's assessment and care plan documents to identify/give advice and support in accessing appropriate health services.</p>		<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>Advice and support to CLA facilitated via the health assessment process with input from Health Visitor/ School Nurse on local health services.</p>		<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing budget</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>
	<p>Continuation of youth club.</p>		<p>CFL Health</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Strategy in place</p>

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency And Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
5.5 A designated doctor and nurse for Looked After Children are identified for the area.	Continuation of LAC Nurse being allocated within Pathways.	Promoting Health document 2002	Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Continuation of a named medical practitioner based within West Lane Hospital.		Health	Existing budget	Strategy in place
	Produce a report outlining the efficiency of the service. Improve the delivery of the initial health assessment		Health	Existing budget	October 2008
5.6 Children and young people in care are provided with support that reflects their culture and identity	Continue to make use of SAHA Project	Foster care recruitment strategy	CFLD	Existing resources	
	Recruit foster carers from ethnic minorities	LAC review	CFLD	Existing resources	
	Individual care planning		CFLD	Existing resources	
6.0 Demonstrate a culture of proactive commitment to secure the highest education outcomes for looked after children (statutory guidance Section 52 The Children Act 2004) :					
6.1 Report on progress against key performance indicators & targets	Present termly reports to senior management team (SMT), the membership of which will take on the role of a virtual governing body	Take on board the responsibilities set out in statutory guidance Section 52 Children Act 2004	Director of Children's Services Children, families & learning senior management team	No additional resources required	To commence academic year 2008-09
6.2 Ensure that there is regular monitoring of educational outcomes and the actions the authority is taking to improve them	Report annually to the full Council on actions taken to improve the educational outcomes for children in care	Take on board the responsibilities set out in statutory guidance Section 52 Children Act 2004	Lead Member for Children's Services	No additional resources required	To commence academic year 2008-09

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency And Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
6.3 Ensure that the authority's placement strategy, placement availability and commissioning activity maximises the educational opportunities and experiences available to children	Review current strategies and contracts with commissioned providers and be explicit in our minimum expectations		Children, families & learning senior management team Commissioning manager		September 2009
7.0 An important element of any strategy is ensuring that it is focused on the experience of the children and young people concerned					
7.1 Look at the feasibility of establishing a 'School Council' for children in care			Virtual Head		January 2010
7.2 Acknowledge and act on the need to share in celebrating the child's achievements	Look at providing incentives and rewards for personal achievements	Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (67.7)	ELAC Manager		September 2008
7.3 Ensure that children in care have access to appropriate up to date books, toys and ICT equipment to encourage and support learning	Ensure that SLA's are reviewed to include the proviso that there is a minimal expectation that access to the listed educational resources is available within placement at no additional cost		Commissioning Manager Fostering team manager ELAC Manager		July 2009 September 2008 (in house provision)
8.0 Structures are important. Clarity of roles and responsibilities can facilitate good working relationships and improve accountability					
8.1 Clarify the line management arrangements of the Education Looked After Children (ELAC) team			Children, families & learning senior management team	Within the proposed restructure of the children, families & learning dept.	September 2008

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency And Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
8.2 Re-focus and strengthen the Education Looked After Children Team in order to meet the current demands on the service.			Children, families & learning senior management team	Within the proposed restructure of the children, families & learning dept.	September 2008
8.3 Consider the introduction of a 'Virtual Head'		Care Matters agenda - currently being piloted in 11 authorities across the country	Children, families & learning senior management team	Within the proposed restructure of the children, families & learning dept.	September 2008
9.0 All children in care should have an effective, high quality Personal Education Plan (PEP)					
9.1 PEPs to be monitored by Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) at LAC reviews	100% of PEPs to be monitored at statutory LAC reviews to ensure compliance with statutory requirements	Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (51.2)	Independent Reviewing Officers	No additional resources required	Starts September 2008
9.2 Arrange multi-agency briefing sessions and/or attend team meetings to share good practice with relevant professionals on 'What makes a good PEP?'			ELAC Manager	Consider budgetary implications	March 2009
9.3 Ensure that Ch/YP are actively involved in their PEP and that their views are accurately recorded		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (48.1)	CF&L social workers Designated Teachers ELAC team	No additional resources required	September 2009

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
9.4 All children in care aged 3-16 years are to have an up to date PEP which reflects the child's needs	Work in partnership with designated teachers, other education professionals and parents/carers to ensure implementation	100% of looked after children are to have an up to date PEP	Children, families & learning social worker Child/young person and their parents/carers Designated teachers	No additional resources required	September 2009
9.5 Support looked after children who are in custody or subject to secure accommodation orders	The authority has a continuing responsibility to review the PEP to ensure the providers meet their statutory responsibilities	Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (63)	Children, families & learning social worker	No additional resources required	September 2008
9.6 Initiate a PEP even where a looked after child or young person is without a school place			Children, families & learning social workers	No additional resources required	September 2008
9.7 Review of PEPs to be used to plan school transitions	To ensure a smooth transfer to a new school, consideration should be given to inviting the designated teacher from the new school to the PEP meeting. The PEP should specify any additional support necessary to achieve a successful transfer and how this is to be funded.	Social Exclusion Unit Report A Better Education for Children in Care 10.5(iii)	Children, families & learning social workers Designated Teachers ELAC Team	No additional resources required	September 2008
9.8 Set an individual learning target for each child looked after, ensuring that targets are appropriate and sufficiently challenging	Existing target setting mechanisms-for example those used routinely by a child's school-should be used wherever possible and the targets recorded on the child's PEP	Social Exclusion Unit Report A Better Education for Children in Care 10.5(i)	Designated Teachers Children, families & learning social; workers ELAC team	No additional resources required	September 2008

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
10.0 Support education through the care planning process to ensure that the child's education is not disrupted as a result of care planning decisions					
10.1 Maximise efforts to arrange a care placement which enables existing educational provision to be maintained		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (34)	Children, families & learning social worker Fostering team		September 2008
10.2 Ensure that children in care in Years 10 & 11 do not move schools except in exceptional circumstances	Protocols to be developed and shared with relevant staff	The Children and Young Person's Bill	Children, families and learning senior management team	There will be financial implications to this recommendation	September 2009
10.3 For Year 11 pupils taking their exams, thought should be given to not placing additional children in the same placement during the examination period			Children, families & learning social worker Fostering team	No additional resources required	September 2009
10.4 Placement moves should be delayed if possible during key exam times	Protocols and procedures are to be agreed to ensure that school changes are minimised and do not take place at critical stages		Children, families & learning senior management team	No additional resources required	February 2009
10.5 Ensure that a school placement is not made unless it is appropriate to the child's educational needs and it's suitability has been satisfactorily tested by arranging a visit beforehand with the child		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (37.2)	Children, families & learning social worker	No additional resources required	September 2008

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
10.6 All planned placement moves are to have a school placement identified beforehand with transport arrangements confirmed		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (35.1)	Children, families & learning social worker	Consideration may need to be given to additional costs such as transport if not included in service level agreement	September 2008
11.0 The Designated Teacher provides the important link between the school, the child or young person, the parent and/or carer, the social worker and other children's services					
11.1 Keep an up to date list of designated teachers	Ensure they are kept informed and supported both individually and as a network	Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (55.5)	ELAC Manager	No additional resources required	September 2008
11.2 Ensure that all newly appointed Designated Teachers receive appropriate induction training	The qualifications and experience needed by Designated Teachers is to be set out in regulations	Revised guidance on the Children Act 1989	Head teachers Designated Teachers ELAC Manager	There may be additional costs to this being provided dependent on numbers	January 2009
11.3 Establish a register of named FE/HE designated leads for looked after young people			Connexions personal advisors ELAC manager	No additional resources required	September 2009
11.4 Annual training programme to be established for Designated Teachers	All designated teachers should receive ongoing training for their role in supporting CLA in school		ELAC Manager	There are financial implications to the hiring of rooms, facilitators, refreshments etc.	September 2009
11.5 Actively support schools and FE/HE establishments in raising their awareness about the needs of looked after children		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (55)	Children, families & learning Connexions personal advisors ELAC team	No additional resources required	January 2008

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
12.0 Governors make a real difference in helping schools provide the best possible education for all pupils whatever their background					
12.1 Governing bodies should appoint a governor to have specific oversight of the school's arrangements and provision for meeting the needs of CLA		Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Head teachers Governors support service	No additional resources required	September 2008
12.2 Governors are to be made aware of their responsibilities for CLA and the role they play in improving the educational experiences of CLA	ning will be provided to school governors to help them understand the needs of children in care	Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (57)	Governors support service Virtual Head/ELAC Manager	No additional resources required	Started academic year 2007-08
12.3 Schools should have a policy for looked after children which may also contain strategies to include looked after children in after school activities		Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Governors support service Head teachers Designated teachers ELAC Manager/Virtual head		September 2008
12.4 Governing bodies should have an annual update on children's progress		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (58.2)	Governors support service Head teachers		September 2008
13.0 Improving attendance is an important issue as good school attendance has a direct link to improved education outcomes					
13.1 Continue to commission the services of Welfare Call to monitor and report on the attendance of all children in care	Weekly monitoring of the school attendance of looked after children ensures identification of problems at an early stage		Children, families & learning senior management team Commissioning manager ELAC manager	Financial costs received from School Management Forum	September 2009

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
13.2 Link to current initiatives in an attempt to increase parents and/or carers, and social workers awareness of the importance of school attendance		Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Children, families senior management team Virtual Head/ ELAC manager		January 2009
13.3 Develop closer working relationships with the Education Welfare Service to provide a speedier and more co-ordinated response to attendance concerns when a child becomes looked after	Prioritise the work of the EWO within the ELAC team to follow up causes of non attendance and work with carers and schools in improving the attendance rates of children in care		ELAC Team manager	No additional resources required	Academic year 2008-09
13.4 Develop a corporate response to discouraging foster carers from taking children on holiday during term time			Children, families & learning senior management team Fostering team manager		September 2009
13.5 Establish procedures to report termly on the circumstances surrounding children in care who fail to have a school placement identified within 20 school days of becoming looked after	Refer 1.1 Present termly reports to senior management team (SMT), the membership of which will take on the role of a virtual governing body	Take on board the responsibilities set out in statutory guidance Section 52 Children Act 2004	Director of Children's Services Children, families & learning senior management team	No additional resources required	To commence academic year 2008-09
13.6 Protocol to be agreed with schools in respect of exclusions for looked after children	Schools and local authorities are to monitor the absence and exclusion of children in care and put in place strategies for improving attendance and reducing exclusions	The Children & Young People's Bill 2007	Children, families & learning senior management team Head teachers		January 2009

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
14.0 Raise standards in attainment in early years and all key stages of the national curriculum					
14.1 Ensure that all looked after children under five have access to high quality early years education	The social worker will work with the carer and local authority to arrange high quality early years education as part of the care planning process	This will form part of the revised Children Act 1989 guidance	Children, families & learning	No additional resources required	January 2009
14.2 Reduce the % of young people missing education for 25 days	Ensure additional support is targeted at disaffected pupils who are at risk of disengaging with education		Designated teachers ELAC team CF&L SW	Additional finances provided for academic year 2008-09 via the school management forum	Academic year 2008- 9
14.3 Monitor the quality of PEPs to ensure they include individual learning targets that are aspirational		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (48.3)	Independent Reviewing Officers Virtual Head		September 2008
14.4 Introduce the allocation of £500 Personal Education Allowance for all 'eligible' children of compulsory school age		Statutory guidance issued in May 2008 on effective use of the personal education allowance	Child/young person Schools Social workers Parents/carers	Funding provided via the area based grant for local authorities	May 2008
14.5 Provide additional education support to young people in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)			Children, families & learning social workers Designated teachers ELAC team	Finances available via the school management forum financial year 2008-09	Academic year 2008-09

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
15.0 Data on the educational achievement of children in care is vital for authorities to monitor performance					
15.1 Develop a comprehensive database to track the academic progress of all children in care from the point of entry	Use 'RAISE online' data or similar software to monitor the progress of children in care	Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Virtual Head Data & performance team		Academic year 2008-09
16.0 The single biggest difference in children's lives in being in the right placement					
16.1 Ensure that parents and/or carers are aware of and know how to access high quality early years support		Care Matters: Time for Change (4.9)	Children, families & learning Early Years manager		January 2009
16.2 Actively promote parents and carers giving a high priority to school attendance	Include the importance of education in all training and assessment of foster carers	Ensure adherence to meeting the National Minimum Standards for Fostering & Residential Children's services	Fostering services Residential providers Children, families & learning staff	No additional resources required	Academic year 2008-09
16.3 Improve training and support to carers and residential staff, to ensure education remains a priority focus	Ensure all Middlesbrough foster carers & residential staff receive training on the education of looked after children and that this is ongoing		ELAC Manager		Academic year 2008-09
16.4 Organise joint training for carers, designated teachers and social workers		Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Virtual head ELAC manager	There will be financial implications to this recommendation	Academic year 2009-10

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
16.5 Ensure that parents and/or carers are actively involved and consulted in the planning of a child's education, particularly through their involvement in developing PEPs		Recommendation of Care Matters: Best practice in Schools working Group Report	Children, families & learning social workers Designated teachers		September 2008
16.6 Review current contracts with independent providers to ensure that as a minimum requirement, all looked after children have access to a computer within placement to undertake school work	Refer 1.3 Review current strategies and contracts with commissioned providers and be explicit in our minimum expectations		Children, families & learning senior management team Commissioning manager		September 2009
16.7 Ensure that children's homes and fostering services, including those in the independent sector, have clear written education policies		Statutory guidance Section 52 of the Children act 2004 (32.3)	Commissioning manager		September 2009
17.0 Ensuring that children and young people are aware of all opportunities available to them is essential to inspire goals, motivation, interests and ambitions					
17.1 Encourage Further and Higher Education institutions to be involved in encouraging and inspiring looked after children to reach their full potential through a variety of inclusive targeted strategies			Virtual head ELAC manager Pathways manager		September 2009

Key Service Outcome	Actions	Indicator	Lead Agency & Partners	Resources	Milestones/ Timescales
17.2 Strengthen links with Connexions by reviewing and amending the partnership agreement to ensure that career planning begins at an earlier stage			Connexions ELAC Manager		September 2008
17.3 Ensure that all Year 11 looked after young people have a 'September guarantee' in place when they leave school			Connexions ELAC Manager	No additional resources required	End of each academic year
18.0 Raising self-esteem and confidence through leisure pursuits will ultimately support raising attainment					
18.1 Reduce the risk of social exclusion by explicitly addressing the needs of looked after children's out of school activities in relevant plans	Consult young people about their preferred out of school activities, and record their views in the PEP alongside agreed action	Increase the numbers of looked after children accessing a range of out of school hours activities	Children, families & learning social workers Designated teachers ELAC team	No additional resources required	September 2008
18.2 Establish links with other council services to ensure a more integrated response to access to leisure pursuits and the promotion of healthier lifestyles	Work with key partners to engage children and young people in accessing community leisure facilities	Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children in Care (6.13)	Children's participation officer ELAC manager Youth service Leisure services	Funding provided via the area based grant for local authorities	January 2009
18.3 Review current youth service provision on offer to looked after children and make recommendations for future service delivery	Consult with young people to evaluate and identify future proposed activities		Youth service Young people Children's participation officer	No additional resources required	September 2008

	<p>placements have appropriate support and training in supporting children and young people in the transition to adulthood.</p> <p>Children and young people in care will have visits by a Social Worker in line with Council Policy.</p> <p>Promote contact with birth family and significant others.</p>	<p>Visiting Frequency Policy NI 63</p> <p>NI 50 NI 58 NI 62 NI 63 NI 66 Children Act 1989</p>	<p>CFL</p> <p>CFL</p>	<p>Existing budgets</p> <p>Existing resources. NB fostering payment review</p>	
<p>19.2 To improve access to good quality accommodation for young people leaving care.</p>	<p>Increase the range and quality of supporting lodgings including those young people wishing to remain in their foster placements past 18 years.</p> <p>Ensure local housing strategies address the needs of care leavers.</p> <p>Ensure care leavers have appropriate priority within the choice base lettings scheme.</p> <p>Ensure support is available to young people as they embark upon their tenancies including monitoring and reviewing.</p>	<p>NI 147 Care Matters Youth Homeless Strategy</p> <p>NI 147 Housing Act</p> <p>NI 147 Housing Act</p> <p>NI 147 Housing Act</p>	<p>CFL Strategic Housing Adult Social Care</p> <p>CFL Strategic housing</p> <p>CFL Strategic Housing & Erimus Housing</p> <p>CFL Housing providers Voluntary Sector</p>	<p>Existing budgets Care Matters Grant</p> <p>Existing budgets</p> <p>Existing budgets</p> <p>Existing budgets</p>	

<p>19.3 To be aspirational around young people achieving economic wellbeing.</p>	Provide a robust support through transitions from Year 11 through to higher education.	NI 117	CFL	Existing budgets Care Matters Grant	
	Provide financial support to enable young people to access higher education.	Leaving Care Act 2000	CFL	Existing budgets	
	To provide young people with clear information about financial support available to them.	Leaving Care Act 2000	CFL	Existing resources	
	To provide a £2,000 bursary to those young people accessing higher education.	Care Matters	CFL		
	To continue to promote the employability scheme.	NI 117	CFL		
	To develop the designated tutor role within further education colleges.	NI 117	CFL		
	To develop post 16 PEP in partnership with young people.	NI 117	CFL		
<p>19.4 Engage children and young people in care in service planning and delivery.</p>	To develop the Children in Care Council.	Care Matters NI 110	CFL	Care Matters Grant	
	Develop the pledge.	NI 110	CFL	Existing resources. Big Lottery Fund	
	Facilitate regular consultation with children and young people in care.	Involvement strategy NI 110	CFL	Existing resources Care Matters Grant	

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