

Sufficiency Action Plan

Highlight Report

March 2022



1.0 Our Response

The Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People in Middlesbrough was presented to and signed off by Corporate Parenting Board in December 2020.

The strategy sets out our vision and action plan for how the Council and our partners will support children and young people who are in our care, and our care leavers, to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives. Transforming our approach to corporate parenting.

Our Sufficiency Action Plan was developed in consultation and is built around the priorities set out in our Corporate Parenting Strategy. The action plan sets out actions we feel need to be undertaken in order to better meet our needs.

Our Sufficiency Action Plan will be reviewed and updated as actions are completed or as new work is identified in the event of any changes to our sufficiency needs over the 3-year cycle of our plan.

The overall responsible Council officer for the Sufficiency Action Plan for Children and Young People is the Director of Children's Services (DCS). For each of the six priority themes, senior Council officers have been delegated by the DCS as the accountable lead for maintaining an overview of the priorities set out in the action plan.

Themes and Responsible Officers

Theme		Lead Accountable Officer
1	Strengthening Commissioning For Children & Young People	Head of Service Futures for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
2	Increasing Placements Close to where Children & Young People Live and Learn	Head of Service Future for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
3	Growing Early Intervention & Prevention	Head of Prevention Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
4	Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers	Head of Service Children Looked After Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
5	Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People	Virtual Head Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
6	Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes	Head of Service Future for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager

2.0 Progress against Each Theme

The Commissioning Action Plan has been reviewed and updated in November 2021.

Theme 1 - Strengthening Commissioning for Children and Young People

- A Market Engagement Plan is now due to be presented at Children's DMT in April 2022.

Theme 2 – Increasing Placements Close to where Children and Young People live and learn

- The regional framework for fostering tender has been published and will close on 28th March 2022. Following this the regional evaluation panel will evaluate all tenders and award for the new framework to be live on 1st July 2022.
- Work continues with the region to understand and identify any opportunities for collaboration and the impending set up of a regional commissioning hub.

Theme 3 – Growing Early Intervention & Prevention

- PAUSE has been extended and it now includes a Start Well Worker who will work specifically with women who are pregnant and will be part of our pre-birth forum.

Theme 4 – Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers

- Contract monitoring visits of all unregulated placements has been carried out and will be reviewed again in 6 months' time.
- NYAS have been commissioned to undertake visits for these placements in order to strengthen the voice of the child and also provide further assurance around quality until the provision becomes regulated.
- A regional meeting with OfSTED was held to discuss the upcoming changes for unregulated provision to become regulated and what support the market will need.

Theme 5 – Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People

- Virtual School attend all PEPs to support early identification of SEND and to prevent suspension
- Joint working with the inclusion team to help schools to support CLA SEND effectively

Theme 6 – Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes

- An internal recruitment campaign has been undertaken to secure new carers.

3.0 Impact/Performance/Data

- Weekly reporting on all residential placements activity continues and is providing greater level of data on placement changes and needs.

5.0 Risks

- Staffing levels in all provisions continues to be challenging but this is being monitored and in the event that issues are identified we will work closely with providers and the service area to provide as much support and resilience as possible.

6.0 Next Steps

- Undertake a refresh of the Action Plan at the April 2022 meeting in order to ensure we have all actions included
- Ensure change controls are secured where any changes to deadlines are identified.

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