

Sufficiency Action Plan

Highlight Report

September 2021



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

Theme 1 - Strengthening Commissioning for Children and Young People

- Work has commenced on the introduction of Controcc in to Children's in order to bring efficiencies in payment processes and strengthen our demand modelling already achieved in Adults.
- Middlesbrough Council held an Independent Fostering Agency Provider Event in June 2021 which was very well attended.

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

- Partner in Practice work was undertaken with in-house fostering and has been put on hold as a business case for internal change has been submitted for approval.
- Regional work on future procurement of a regional framework continues and the commissioning model has been received and circulated internally for review.
- Internal unregulated provision opened and is actively being used with 7 young people currently being supported.
- Rosecroft Children's Home has re-opened with an increase in beds to 5 and now specifically offering support to young people aged 16+ in order to support move on to independence.
- Continue to work with the region in order to identify any opportunities for collaboration. Currently awaiting set up of a regional commissioning hub.

Theme 3 – Growing Early Intervention & Prevention

- PAUSE continues to provide monitoring information on the women engaged and the positive outcomes they are achieving, this has resulted in an extension to the current contract.
- Pilot Early Intervention and Prevention service has commenced and is being closely monitored. A formal review will be undertaken in order to ensure proof of concept and confirm future commissioning intentions.

Theme 4 – Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers

- Business case has been submitted in relation to increasing supported lodging providers internally and is awaiting sign off.

Theme 5 – Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People

- Discussions have commenced with the Boarding School providers in order to expand the opportunities for our children and young people and increase placement choice.

Theme 6 – Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes

- Business case for internal change has been submitted for approval.

3.0 Impact/Performance/Data

- Opened engagement with the Independent Fostering market which was really positive and gave an opportunity to feedback and update them on our improvement journey and aspirations for the future.
- External placement numbers have decreased and plateaued and we are now monitoring these weekly focusing on both internal and external placement changes.

5.0 Risks

- Unregulated legislation changes limiting the placement options available
- The increase in demand across the service and across the Tees Valley region

6.0 Next Steps

- Review and update the Sufficiency Action Plan to make sure it fits for purpose
- Unregulated provision changes need to be added to plan
- A schedule for provider engagement to be developed to ensure networking with the market continues to develop
- Ensure the regional work meets the needs of Middlesbrough and where not continue to work independently
- Work with in-house fostering to understand the business plan for the future which in turn can identify our commissioning intentions moving forward



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