

Appendix C
Update on Summary Action Plan for
Key Priorities of Corporate Parenting
and Placement Sufficiency Strategy
2014-16

*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures for Suffolk Looked After
Children and Care Leavers*

Updated 20 August 2015

Summary Action Plan for Key Priorities

1. We will improve educational achievement for Looked After Children in Suffolk.

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officer, Gareth Williams-James Head of the Virtual School | Key Performance Measures / Progress |
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| <p>Improve the percentage of Looked After Children achieving 5 + A* to C GCSEs including English and Maths so that every child achieves his or her potential.</p> | <p>We will set up a Governing Body to the Virtual School to contribute to the improvement of educational attainment by providing scrutiny of educational provision and the individual achievements of all LAC <i>Achieved:</i> A Virtual School Governing Body has been established with an Independent Chair (Maureen Eade) and including representation from the Children in Care Council, Head teachers and senior SCC officers. Meetings held, 2nd March and 29th June. The role of the governing body will be developed and strengthened in line with the transformation of the Virtual School as it moves into Education and Learning from 1st September. Transformation will strengthen school improvement role of the Virtual School whilst retaining partnership with social care teams to ensure high quality educational planning.</p> <p>We will challenge head teachers and governing bodies of Suffolk schools to recognise the parental role of the Corporate Parent and respond ambitiously to the needs of Looked After children. <i>Achieved:</i> Schools claiming Pupil Premium funding are conditional on evidencing Pathway Plans are in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termly letters to all head teachers and designated teachers requiring progress information for each looked after child and summary plans for interventions making use of the Pupil Premium Grant. For the 413 children in stable school placements between the Spring and Summer terms – 100% return. • Suffolk VSH led regional VSHs, Jan 2014 to April 2015, in developing partnership with HMIs under OFSTED regional director to improve quality of school inspections in the context of looked after children and virtual schools. OFSTED regional director ensuring attainment of looked after children is a priority and HMIs have developed specific evidence form for schools in the East of England. | <p>Target: Improve Care placement stability to reduce need to move school placements</p> <p><i>Achieved:</i> Care placement stability in Suffolk is improving year-on-year and is better now than statistical neighbours (SN) (Measure is 3 or more moves. 2013 – 13%, 2014 – 11%, 2015 -10%. SN – 12%)</p> <p>Target: 2014/15 – at least 18% of cohort of looked after children to achieve five or more grades at A*-C (2013,4 =10.3%, 2012,3=14.5%)</p> <p><i>Projected:</i> schools projecting 21% of cohort will achieve, which would be above target. Virtual School team believes 13% reasonably secure. Results due 20th August.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cross authority conference for designated teachers, school leaders and governors held 4th March. Principal speaker was HMI on why OFSTED is making the educational achievement of looked after children a priority in the Eastern Region. 200 attended. Followed up with case studies and OFSTED evidence form available on website.</i> • <i>Input to all March seminars for governors from Virtual School Head on responsibilities for governing bodies and OFSTED priority for looked after children. Updates provided to “the Knowledge” governors’ newsletter. Individual challenge on case by case base regarding school plans to support children. Example – in April schools projecting 29% of key stage 2 pupils will achieve expected levels. After challenge and support regarding specific pupils, actual result was 40%.</i> <p>We will, in partnership with schools, social work teams and Independent Reviewing Officers, ensure that educational achievement is a priority in care planning for every looked after child. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring good communication between school, home and corporate parenting services. • Maintaining the stability of both home and school placements • Ensuring Personal Education Plans are completed and kept up to date • Ensuring that practical support such as IT is provided where needed and to put in place responsive support packages if young people start to struggle. <p><i>There remains a challenge around obtaining up-to-date Pathway Plans from some out-of-county placements. This will continue to be addressed through contracting and placement meetings</i></p> <p>We will, in partnership with the Fostering Service, ensure that all carers are able to promote educational achievement and support children placed with them.</p> <p><i>LACESS Virtual School team provided going training to fostering support groups to ensure carers able to support 80 children with Letterbox Club intervention at key stage 2.</i></p> <p><i>Education section in fostering manual completely rewritten to reflect current guidance and developments.</i></p> | <p>Target: 100% up to date Personal Education Plans for Looked After Children of School Age</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> copies of up to date PEPs with Virtual School, March 15 96%, July 15 91%. Instruction from deputy director and lead for early help and specialist services to all social care managers to follow up those not with Virtual School. Training on ensuring high quality PEPs provided by VSH or team members to social care practitioner workshops March – June.</p> |
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Members of Virtual School team providing training input for supervising social workers to Fostering Service development day in September

We will, in partnership with Catch 22, ensure that all looked after children and care leavers are supported to make good choices for post 16 education.

Achieved: Specialist Youth Support Worker commissioned in Early Help by Virtual School. Post commenced in June and now working alongside Catch22, to ensure high quality careers and futures planning for looked after children age 14 up.

Achieved: The development of the 16+ PEP will support young people to make positive choices around their educational. Training and employment needs.

The development of the Future Focus Project in conjunction with the Early Offer NEET Strategy which targets young people who are hard to engage or are newly transferred into the service

Named worker at MYGO identified to develop close professional relationships with DWP and ensure the available DWP care leaver marker is routinely identified. This should enable care leavers to be tracked and outcomes measured in terms of raising awareness and effective service delivery.

We will, in partnership with the Community Educational Psychology (EP) Service, ensure that school staff and governors are aware of the significance of attachment and trauma.

Achieved:

- *EPs have worked alongside SCC Workforce Development and the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAHM) in order to provide a conference on attachment (and related issues). This conference also included a presentation from a sector leader in the area of attachment and trauma. (ref: Louise Bomber author of 'Inside I'm Hurting).*
- *Staff from the Community EP Service have presented on attachment / trauma across the county for a variety of audiences. The outcomes have been to raise awareness across school staff in this area. For example:*
 - *Presenting to school senior leadership at the Virtual School Conference*
 - *Attachment twilight sessions for schools (also promoting the use of collaborative problem solving processes)*

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| | <p style="text-align: center;">— <i>Attachment training sessions in schools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>When working with schools and with colleagues EPs have been developing their use of attachment based interventions such as Video Interaction Guidance and Video Enhanced Reflective Practice (VERP). These interventions make explicit links to the significance of attachment and attuned relationships and VERP particularly contributes to raising awareness of the significance of ‘attachment in the classroom’</i> <p>Ref; Annual Report of the Virtual School.</p> | |
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2. We will work with partners to meet the health and mental health needs of Looked After Children in Suffolk including implementing the recommendations of the joint Looked After Children Health Review

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officers. Sharon Jarrett, Head of CYP Health Improvement, Beulah Chizimba, Designated Nurse, LAC. | Key Performance Measures / Progress |
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| <p>Increase the provision of locally available services where there are difficulties in meeting particular needs.</p> <p>Monitor and improve health outcomes for children in care and care leavers using information from Health Assessments, SDQs.</p> <p>Develop consistent reporting systems of LAC and care leaver health performance covering all services and across the whole county.</p> | <p>We will develop a multi-agency commissioning framework and Action plan to address the gaps in services identified by the joint review of arrangements and service provision to meet the health and mental health needs of Looked After Children and Care Leavers.</p> <p><i>Achieved: A revised joint SCC / Health Action Plan for improving health outcomes and performance for LAC has been produced and is subject to scrutiny at the CCGs, Corporate Parenting Board and the LAC Improvement Group.</i></p> <p><i>Progress around mental Health. Emotional Health and Well-Being Strategy being updated in response to Govt's Future in Mind' task-force report and concerns about Suffolk system capacity to respond to children's mental health, emotional and behavioural needs. Transformation Plan will be in place by December 2015. Ref: Children's Trust Emotional Health and Well-Being Strategy 2013-2017.</i></p> <p><i>The refreshed strategy and transformation plan will inform the development of a joint commissioning framework between Clinical Commissioning Groups and SCC. Explicit consideration and action will be given to LAC.</i></p> <p>We will improve the accuracy of recording of health activity better to reflect the level of that activity.</p> <p>Monitoring will include the development of outcome reporting to ensure children receive the services they need to keep them healthy.</p> <p>Target: % of looked after children referred who are receiving support from the CAMHS and Connect services within 15 weeks will be reported from April 2015.</p> | <p>Target: % of looked after children receiving an annual health check will increase from 85% (DfE 2013/14) to 90% in 2014/15</p> <p><i>Achieved: 2014/15 90.9% (Ref DfE 903 Return)</i></p> <p>Target: % of looked after children receiving an annual dental check will increase from 67% (DfE 2013,14) to 85% in</p> |

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| | <p><i><u>Achieved:</u> The reporting of this metric has been delayed to September 15. At the end of Q1 2015/16 the Connect service were working with 120 LAC and adopted young people. 9 were awaiting assessment and 6 awaiting Intervention. The service commissioned from NFST has lacked the capacity for reporting LAC numbers and outcomes. This is being addressed as part of Transformation Plan and through clearer commissioning.</i></p> <p>Ref: Improving Health Outcomes and Performance Action Plan. (Joint SCC/ Health Action Plan 2015) Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children. (Statutory Guidance DoE, DoH. March 2015)</p> | <p>2014/15 and 2015/16</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> 2014/15 71.6% (Ref DfE 903 Return)</p> <p>Foster carers report some refusals by older children to attend the dentist. Head of Corporate Parenting has written to foster carers about the importance of attending health and dental assessments.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of identified harmful substance misusers will be offered a suitable treatment and harm reduction programme from January 2015.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> 15 Looked After Children were offered an intervention, 2 received an intervention. Each children's home has been allocated a drug advice worker and a working group is addressing more targeted interventions. Note The data in this area is thought be to under-reported and is subject to further analysis</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 65% of SDQs to be returned for eligible children in 2014/15.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> 2014/15 68% (Ref DfE 903 Return)</p> <p>85% of SDQs to be returned in 2015/16.</p> |
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3. We will improve job prospects for children in care and our care leavers. We will do this by ensuring there is appropriate Information, Advice and Guidance and pathways into learning and work that support their identified aspirations to enable them to be independent adults.

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officer Pauline Henry, County Youth Support Manager | Key Performance Measures / Progress |
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| <p>Ensure LAC are supported and challenged to identify their career aspirations</p> <p>Strengthen the transition support to enable their aspirations to be achieved. This will include securing a range of accredited work experience and employment opportunities</p> | <p>We will work with Catch22 to ensure there is a clear progression plan for each care leaver within their Pathway Plan, and that the Personal education Plan includes career aspirations. <i>Auditing of quality and effectiveness of pathway plans carried out and reported on quarterly by SCC and Catch 22. Improvement plan being developed with Quality Assurance service to make Pathway Plans more focused, including 16+ PEPs .</i></p> <p>We will provide targeted Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) to and monitoring of LAC and Care Leavers at risk of NEET, via the Integrated Teams and the Specialist Youth Support Workers (SYSW). <i><u>Achieved:</u> Spreadsheet has been created to incorporate information from LACESS, Catch 22 and Profile to identify those year 11 and year 12 LAC/Care Leavers who are without a Sept offer and those with an offer who may be at risk. Practice Managers have been asked to allocate a SYSW to all LAC/Care Leavers to ensure an EET plan is negotiated between Early Help, Catch 22 and the young person.</i> <i><u>Achieved:</u> 26 posts have been established as part of the MEIC restructure with a specific role of supporting and providing IAG pre 16 year olds, including LAC, most at risk of NEET.</i> <i>Those LAC/Care Leavers (year 11 and year 12) who have been allocated to a SYSW are being followed up to ensure offers of learning are in place – where there are no offers, advice and support is being offered to the allocated LAC or Catch 22 worker to generate a plan of action (this could include IAG if required)</i> <i>We have now set up monthly monitoring meetings with lead SYSWs in Early Help Teams including specialist youth support worker for LAC.</i></p> <p>We will work with Catch 22, MyGo and Job Centre Plus to maximise</p> | <p><u>Target:</u> 100% will have a progression plan</p> <p><i><u>Achieved:</u> At June 2015 97% have a Pathway Plan. Work is continuing to ensure the plan contains detailed information about progression.</i></p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of LAC at risk of NEET will be receiving IAG by March 2016 and outcomes will be included in a post-16 Personal Education Plan in compliance with Raising Participation Age requirements.</p> |

opportunities for our care leavers to receive the appropriate support to develop their aspirations and pathways into work, including coaching, workshops, specific information, advice and guidance (IAG) etc.

Achieved: Collaborative working to better signpost young people and access work experience placements, work is evolving. New referral form in place between Catch 22 and My Go, improved information sharing re support being accessed, workshops attended etc. 33 care leavers have registered with MyGo and they will be working with more who chose not to self-declare. Liaison with Job Centre Plus to mitigate sanctions when care leavers take up work experience opportunities and MyGo has allocated an IAG coach to work specifically with care leavers.

We will introduce a “looked after children friendly recruitment scheme” enabling young people to self-declare their LAC status if they choose, and offer a guaranteed interview if the minimum criteria are met. Care leavers will be able to apply for all internally-advertised posts within SCC.

Achieved: Scheme in place February 2015

| | <u>Target</u> | <u>Achieved</u> |
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| No of LAC applicants recruited to SCC posts | Baseline to be established during year 1, and target to be set for year 2) | 1 = 1/5/15 |
| No of LAC applicants engaged on temporary contracts within SCC | | 1 |
| No of LAC applicants recruited to SCC apprenticeships | | 2x apprentice commissioners being recruited August 2015 – Both posts are ring fenced for care leavers |

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| No of LAC applicants interviewed | Baseline to be established yr1. | Note : Abacus, recruitment provider are investigating the production of bespoke |
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| | | Target to be set for year 2) | data but likely to be subject to a cost | <p>Target: 70% of 32 for 16- 18 yr. old LAC 63 for 18-21 yr. old Care Leavers Achieved: West: 2 x 18-21yr olds in placements further 5 being developed. South: 8 care leavers currently on expedition in Iceland part of their of their preparation to move into planned work experience/work /training</p> <p>Target: 10 work experience opportunities in 2014,15 30 work experience opportunities offered by SCC in 2015,16 Achieved: 5 flexible placements have been offered and similar can be made available again across directorates: CYP, RM and ACS. Target: 10 work experience opportunities offered by our partners/ contracted services in 2015/16. Achieved: 2 taster sessions provided to care-leavers at Kingfisher Leisure centre and Belle Vue Park via The Landscape Group.</p> <p><i>The challenge is to identify earlier those young people who are at risk of NEET and for whom other issues e.g. housing, mental health, substance misuse and lack of confidence are preventing them from undertaking full time work or even fulfilling work experience opportunities flexibly created to meet their needs.</i> <i>The range of inputs from targeted IAG, specialist LACCESS worker, better relationships with MyGo and additional youth worker in</i></p> |
| | <p>NEET 16-21 year old care leavers will access experiences of work in 2015-16 We will develop pathways into learning and work for our young people in care and leaving care to learn about, experience and enter the world of work. These opportunities will be tailored to their identified aspirations. <i>E.g. - One placement-Accreditation Support worker in CYP Engagement Hub is ongoing and has been developed to support young person aged 21 move from 2 days a week in February to 5 days in July and prepare for routes into apprenticeships.</i> <i>E.g. - Three month project role offered in ACS- working with commissioning manager, collated information from a Survey Monkey and wrote a report to inform commissioning of autism services in Suffolk.</i> <i>E.g. 2 care leavers participated in a work experience session at West Suffolk House – July 2015. Further sessions planned which will be co-produced by young people to ensure sessions meet needs.</i> Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Each gained evidence of skills /experience to set out on application forms e.g. working effectively in a team / problem solving skills/ communication.</i> • <i>1 care leaver at risk of losing accommodation – retained it as a result of positive engagement in work experience programme</i> • <i>1 care leaver now willingly engaging in unpaid work experience as recognises it as route to apprenticeship/work.</i> <p><i>E.g. Information /orientation sessions to support young people to make informed decisions to apply for SCC apprenticeships and gain work experience now being offered for vacancies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Customer contact centre Stowmarket, Learning and development, business support across CYPS, IT, Business development, Highways.</i> <p><i>E.g. One to one session for 19 year old to prepare for apprenticeship application and interview</i> <i>E.g. work taster session for 17 year old primarily as a first step to understanding how further unpaid work experience could equip him with skills/ experience to secure a job/ apprenticeship</i></p> | | | |

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| | <p>We will offer accredited learning, as part of Passport For Independence (P4I) and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award schemes, as part of these work experience and employment opportunities. <i>Achieved: P4I has been significantly developed to become more flexible, enabling young people to complete small and relevant elements. Challenges remain in identifying LAC/ care leavers who are “ready” to undertake work placements and complete accredited learning. The pool of mentors being trained will be able to help to support mentees undertake accredited learning on placement in future.</i></p> <p>We will put in place robust processes to support our managers and teams offering placements. We will provide training and support to better equip them to deal with issues arising and ensure quality experiences for all.</p> <p>We will develop a pool of young people and other employees to mentor our LAC and care leavers in work placements. <i>Achieved: Toolkit for managers developed (March 2015) –Joint project being developed with HR to equip managers and teams with skills to provide quality apprenticeships.</i></p> <p>We will work with our corporate parenting partners, especially district and borough councils, and build working partnerships with our current contracted services to generate a greater number and range of quality work experience and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with Procurement to ensure the provision of work experience pathways and apprenticeships are built into future external contracts. <i>New target : Our Commissioning Intentions letter for 2015/16 sets out an expectation that Care Leavers will be guaranteed Interview for Apprenticeships and jobs. This will be embedded in Contracts with providers of services to the Children’s Trust partnership.</i></p> <p>Links to: Raising Participation and NEET Prevention Strategy Owner Judith Mobbs, AD, Skills</p> | <p><i>South Suffolk Catch22 team all aim to improve work-readiness of young people currently NEET.</i></p> <p>Target: No of LAC who have completed accredited learning modules under P4I or DofE. (Baseline to be established during 2015,16)</p> <p>Target: 15 trained mentors (level 3) by September 2015. Further 15 trained by March 2016. <i>Achieved: 14 mentors are nearing completion of their Level 3 training and mentoring young people in SCC – including one care-leaver on work experience. This cohort should be fully trained by September 2015 and ready to mentor our LAC and care leavers with potentially more complex requirements</i></p> <p>Summary Outcome: The number of 18+ year old Care Leavers that are EET has increased from 50% at the end of 2013/14 to 62% at the end of 2014/15. This figure relates to the whole of the population of care leavers 16 to 21 and not just 18+. The numbers of 16-18 year-old care leavers ‘in learning’ are monitored on a monthly basis and has been consistently achieving between 62 % and 63.50 % since July 2014. This continues to be above the national average.</p> |
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4. We will increase the number of Suffolk County Council Foster Carers and the range of needs they can meet, specifically for sibling groups, teenagers and other children with more complex needs

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officer – Sally Stoker, Head of Adoption and Fostering | Key Performance Measures |
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| <p>Increase every year the net number of placements that can be provided by the Suffolk Fostering Service and the capacity to meet more specialist foster care needs</p> | <p>We will work more effectively with our in-house foster carers to make best use of their capacity to provide a caring home.</p> <p>We will address the imbalance in placement capacity caused by a surplus of foster placements for children aged under 10 years and an under capacity for children aged 11+ by restructuring fostering our rates to encourage placement growth in areas of greatest need</p> <p>We will increase focus on the net growth of in house foster care through Recruitment and Retention initiatives particularly for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements for sibling groups • Placements for older children • Placements for children with disabilities • Placements for children with challenging behaviour <p>We will develop specialist foster care capacity within the Suffolk Fostering Service to meet identified gaps in provision.</p> <p>We will, through a wide ranging consultation, include the carers more in decisions made to improve the service we provide and, in</p> | <p><u>Achieved:</u> 407 children placed with SCC foster carers at end, 2014,15 compared to 374 at end 2013,14. Overall reduction of approved places in this period; 588 in 2013,14 to 540 in 2014,15 as profile of foster carer population changed to reflect need for fewer 0-5 carers An additional 9 placements for those under 5 will need to be recruited to each year to ensure a stable number of available placements for this age group.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> To increase the number of in-house fostering placements they can offer by 119 as follows: 15 placements in 2015/16 37 Placements in 2016/17 52 Placements in 2017/18 15 Placements in 2018/19 (Baseline of 540 approved places at end 2014,15) <u>Achieved in 2014,15:</u> 20 more places recruited for hard-to-place and older children.</p> |

turn, the quality of the care and outcomes for the children and young people.

A consultation with Foster Carers took place in Spring 2015 on proposals to introduce a revised Foster Care Allowance scheme. The consultation feedback influenced the system design which was approved by Cabinet in June 2015. The new scheme will be introduced in October 2015. The new scale of fees will be a direct enabler for recruiting more carers for the 'hard to place' groups of children and young people.

We will further develop the role of the Corporate Parenting Board and Children in Care Council in monitoring Placement Sufficiency and ensuring actions are followed through to increase the provision of suitable high quality placements that meet the needs of children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Board has monitored the implementation of the Staying Put and Fostering Allowance and Fee reviews and ensured carers, staff and elected members have been able to contribute to the review process.

Fostering Placements re subject to statutory annual review by Fostering support team to ensure they provide high quality placements Review undertaken for each carer and signed off by Head of Service or Agency Decision Maker and reported to the CPB through annual service reports.

**Links to: Annual Fostering Service Report, 2014,15
Cabinet Reports, Fostering Fees and Allowances scheme June 2015.**

5. We will work with partners to increase the sufficiency in Suffolk of good quality and appropriately supported accommodation for Looked After Children aged 16+ and care leavers

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officers – Cliff James, Head of Corporate Parenting Tina Hines, Head of Commissioning and Partnerships | Key Performance Measures |
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| <p>Increase the number of young people who are supported by the 16+ and the Leaving Care Service to ensure that they are living in suitable accommodation</p> | <p>We will ensure the recommendations of the Corporate Parenting Board Housing Task and Finish Group Final Report continue to inform the provision of a sustainable sufficiency of good quality placements for older Looked After Children and care leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a commissioning strategy for supervised and supported housing • Continue to identify sources of suitable accommodation to ensure that there is no use made of unsuitable provision • Actively support the Staying Put Policy to help young people remain with their foster carers beyond the age of 18 <p>Achieved: <i>Commissioning Strategy developed with a 16-21 Young Person’s Housing Pathway agreed at DMT March 2015. Tender process for semi-independent accommodation for 16-17 LAC and homeless young people underway. Market Engagement Event held March 2015 to scope need and models of delivery. Service specification in development involving young people. Linked to SCC/ ACS Housing Related Support review and the joint SCC, Borough and District review of the joint homelessness protocol. The introduction of Staying Put policy to support young people to remain in their foster placement and access ongoing support from their foster carer post 18. This is at an early stage of implantation however at present there 17 young people who are currently being support through the staying put arrangements within the service.</i></p> | <p>Target: % of young people supported by the Looked After and 16+ and Leaving Care Services in suitable accommodation will improve from 79% in 2013,14 (DfE) to 90% in 2014,15 and 2015,16</p> <p>Achieved: <i>Number in Suitable Accommodation (16-21) 91% April 2015. (76% for 19-21) (Ref DfE 903 Return) Number in B&B April 2014 -14 Number in B&B April 2015 - 4. This figure is still too high but active measures in place to move young people into more suitable accommodation. Monitored by the CPB bi-monthly.</i></p> <p>% of care leavers aged 18+ who are supported to remain with their foster carers will be monitored from April 2015 <i>Baseline: 18 at April 2015.</i></p> |

We will continue to work with partners, including the independent and voluntary sector, to increase the range and choice of provision for young people and care leavers where there are identified gaps in accommodation provision.

Catch 22 proactively register young people post 16 with district and borough councils to reduce the numbers of young people becoming homeless post 18. This has been developed as part of the Housing protocol.

Tender process for semi-independent accommodation for 16-17 LAC and homeless young people underway.

Market Engagement Event held March 2015 to scope need and models of delivery.

Service specification in development involving young people.

Linked to SCC/ ACS Housing Related Support review and the joint SCC, Borough and District review of the joint homelessness protocol.

We will work to ensure that the transition from placement to independent living is well planned and supported to make the transition less daunting or the young person and ensuring that the young person has the skills to live independently. Lead - Catch22 Leaving Care Service. (Wendy Wright, Principal Team Manager)

With the development of the new pathway plan we work with LAC Teams to ensure that young people's transition into independent living is planned in advance. Catch 22 reviews on a minimum of six monthly basis to ensure that young people are supported to make a successful transition into adulthood. Through providing ongoing support we aim to identify any concerns and review accordingly. Cases are monitored through supervision and audited through a programme moderated by senior managers and the quality assurance team.

Preparation for Independence is also provided by the implementation of the Preparation for Independence Group (P4I) which is a programme building on the success of the model in the North we are now rolling this out across the e South and linking with Supported Housing providers.

6. We will work with partners to increase the provision of educational placements in Suffolk for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders currently placed in school settings outside of Suffolk

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take Lead Officer Georgina Green, County Manager, Social Exclusion | Key Performance Measures |
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| <p>We will work with education partners in the Schools Forum and elsewhere to explore how educational provision in Suffolk can be most efficiently provided for children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders where there is insufficient provision.</p> <p>To implement the new Strategic Commissioning Framework to improve the quality of all alternative provision accessed by children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and increase the amount of specialist provision where there is an identified need.</p> | <p>We will increase the capacity of Suffolk County Council’s Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Service through development of additional Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) capacity.</p> <p>We will work with new providers to increase educational provision in Suffolk for children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders where there is insufficient provision</p> | <p>Target: To double the number of placements at Hampden House PRU in Suffolk from 12 to 24 from September 2014 of which 12 will be residential placements</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> Increase in the number of placements at Hamden House Pupil Referral Unit from 12 to 24 from September 2014; 12 day places and 12 residential places.</p> <p>PRU places increased by 54 across county.</p> <p>Target: Reduction in the % of Suffolk school aged Looked After children that are placed outside of Suffolk because of insufficiency of suitable accommodation, education and therapeutic provision in Suffolk.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> March 2014 -31 children in out-county provision. March 2015 - 27 children in out-county provision. Initiative to use boarding school places for some LAC underway, in partnership with Springboard Bursary Foundation and Buttle UK.</p> |

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| | <p>We will implement Fair Access Panels in three areas of Suffolk.</p> <p>Establishment and the operation of the following forums in three areas of Suffolk (North, South, West):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Commissioning Board • Strategic Commissioning Steering Group • Quality Assurance Board <p>The implementation of the SEN strategy in 2015,16 will involve key changes for consideration and consultation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who would currently have a statement of SEN and young people over 16 who would have a learning difficulty assessment have an integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (0-25 years). • Health and Children’s services will be required in law to contribute appropriate resources to the plan. • Every family with an Education, Health and Care plan will have a right to request a personal budget for their support. • The development of a ‘Local Offer’ outlining all provision available to children and young people with SEND and their families. • Removal of School Action/School Action Plus in favour of one category of SEN support prior to an EHCP. • Greater involvement/control by parents of Local Authority SEND processes. <p>Link to: SEN Strategy document 2015- 2018.</p> | <p>Target: improvement in quality of provision and outcomes for learners who access alternative provision.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> March2015, Fair Access Panels established to find local educational placements for hard-to-place children.</p> <p>Target: Implementation of the respective forums across the 3 areas and the drafting of Business Cases for additional alternative provision.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> June 2015, all 3 forums have been established and Business Cases drafted in consultation with schools and partner agencies.</p> <p>Target: Reduction in exclusions of LAC across the collective resource that ensures long term sustainability of placement.</p> <p>Achieved: LAC children with permanent exclusion. 2013, 14 -0. 2014, 15 – 0.</p> <p>LAC with fixed term exclusion. 2013, 14 11.5%. 2014,15 -11.0%</p> |
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7. Providing placements in a timely manner, that achieve permanence for all children who cannot live with their birth parents

| Priority | Actions Suffolk County Council plan to take | Key Performance Measures |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Providing placements in a timely manner, that achieve permanence for all children who cannot live with their birth parents</p> | <p>Lead Officer -Sally Stoker, Head of Adoption and Fostering</p> <p>We will maximise the number of children who achieve permanency through placements within their kinship networks; placements with registered foster carers, adoptions, including older children, sibling groups and those with complex needs.</p> <p>We will continue to develop our services to support permanence whether it by Care Order, Child Arrangement Order, Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order This support may take the form of financial, practical, training, therapeutic or contact support and will be offered by the Foster Carer Support Service and the Permanence and Adoption support Service.</p> <p><i>From 2014, Special Guardianship Order families will be provided with a placement support plan at time of making the order and will be assessed for support services on request. Achieved: 60 families supported.</i></p> <p><i>New Permanence Procedures approved July 2015 - all permanent Fostering placements will be approved by Fostering or Permanence Panel; will have a support plan and will be assessed for support services on a continuing basis within the LAC review process</i></p> <p>Ref. Adoption Service Annual Action Plan. Plan owner, Sally Stoker, Head of Adoption and Fostering</p> | <p>Target: Adoption Scorecard targets will be achieved.</p> <p><u>Achieved:</u> Children placed for adoption 2013, 14- 86 2014, 15 -67. Reduction of children placed out-county. 2013, 14 -23. 2014,15 - 14 New SGOs – 2013, 14 -55. 2014, 15 – 48. Post Adoption support packages offered 2013, 14 – 63. 2014,15 - 76</p> |