

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST 2011/12

Report for Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel



OVERVIEW

Children's Social Care is a highly volatile area where we know vigilance is critical at all times.

We face a number of challenges, both nationally and locally. The Munro review will be "revolutionary" if the Government decides to follow its recommendations, for example, ensuring the child's story is told easily and that Social Workers can exercise strong professional judgement with a strong corporate focus on children.

We operate from a strong base which our most recent Ofsted inspection has shown, but we still need to work hard at maintaining and improving our approach to partnership working, given the changes faced by our partners and the more challenging financial climate that we are currently all working in. In particular we must be responsive to changes taking place within other professions, such as, the Health Visiting Service who will be operating a targeted rather than a universal approach to service delivery.

We need to continue to reduce the number of children in care and the number of children with a Child Protection Plan. We also need to improve placement stability for those in care for the last twelve months.

The above challenges are being addressed within our transformation agenda for the service, which covers the following 7 areas.

- Implement recommendations of the Munro enquiry into child protection
- Diversion from care programme
- Development of localities and partnership working within the framework of CAF
- Review and simplify ICS questionnaires to make them intuitive, practice led and easier for service users to understand
- Introduce an EDRMS solution that gives a single record of the child.
- Smarter commissioning to achieve best value and quality. Making public services seamless with local voluntary and community activities
- Implications of SEND

DELIVERY OF COUNCIL AND CITYWIDE PRIORITIES

- Raise educational attainment of children in care
- Continue to improve employment status of young people in care
- Reduce impact of most extreme levels of neglect through the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, regular themed audits and development of early intervention services
- Provide appropriate accommodation for asylum seeking children
- Ensure community engagement on safeguarding issues, so that the community is aware of how to protect children, through Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board training and further rollout and development of the CAF process

- Ensure continuity of social workers involved with a family by ensuring the transfer policy protocol is reviewed
- Review current suite of ICS forms as per Munro guidance to develop an electronic record that is easy to use and tells the story of the child
- Develop consumer surveys by June 2011
- Further develop Carefirst to establish management information reports for social workers
- Further embed quality assurance through annual programme of themed audits