

Item 2

Action Plans relating Looked After, Fostering and Adoption Services – October 2012

Plan	Action	Activities/Outcomes	Timescale	Comments
Safeguarding business Unit Plan 2012-2014	Safely Reduce the number of LAC	Evidenced based programmes commissioned Revision of the role of Children's Panels Use of Going Home toolkit	December 2012	Referred to as the 'Dartington' Project. This includes a 'Matching Needs and Services' exercise
Adoption Services Action Plan 20-12-2013	To continue to recruit adopters for those children deemed harder to place i.e. older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities.	Increase in the number of adoption placements made in timely manner	March 2013	Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To continue to facilitate and increase the amount of workshops/training available for approved adopters.	Adopters Training programme in place	March 2013	
	To review the Preparation Groups in line with the Guidance issued by the Department of Education, to ensure that adopters are fully prepared for adoption.	Practice complies with revised national Guidance	March 2013	
	To respond to and implement changes required arising the Adoption Action Plan.	Service complies with national regulatory requirements	Ongoing	
	To develop a support groups for adopters in the 'north' of the County.	All adopters have access to support group	March 2013	
	To work with Fostering Services in the development on concurrent planning scheme, whereby young	Reduce placement delays and improve adoption performance timescale	March 2013	

	babies are placed with foster carers who are then in a position to adopt them should this be the plan.			
Fostering Services Action Plan 2012-2013	To Increase the number of foster placements available by (i) streamlining the front end of the fostering recruitment processes (ii) increasing the numbers of preparation groups, (including weekend groups) (iii) directly booking in home visits to potential carers if the initial telephone contact is positive thereby reducing delay by not waiting for them to return a reply slip.	Improve fostering preparation and assessment performance Reduce reliance on IFA placements	October 2012	
	Reviewing and updating the fostering recruitment material and expanding recruitment opportunities via websites, blogs, Google etc.	Increase the number of fostering enquiries using new technologies		
	Increasing the number of assessments completed within 6 months to 90% of assessments. (Current N.M.S. is 8 months).	Improve the number and range of internal fostering placements		
	The Framework Agreement ends in 2013. The Service with M.A.C. needs to review and secure a position within the Consortium which provides local placements	To reduce the unit cost of external fostering provision – to ensure that such arrangements do not adversely impact upon the internal provision		

	at a competitive price.			
	To review and improve processes to provide more permanent foster placements	To improve placement stability for looked after children and young people		Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To complete the review of foster carer Payments for Skills scheme to include the criteria for Skills Levels 1 and 2, consider payment arrangements for solo placements and to address the issue of long term savings.	To ensure that the scheme complies with new QFC requirements Increase placement options for young people with complex needs Streamline arrangements and ensure consistency regarding long term savings	November 2012 March 2013 January 2013	Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To decrease the number of children who experience 3 or more placement moves.	To enhance placement stability for LAC and bring performance in line with national average	March 2013	
	To recruit 30 fostering households over each 12 month period and complete 90% of the assessments within 6 months of application.			
Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)	To review our current Kinship Strategy and support services, in line with new regulations and best practice.	Dedicated Kinship Care service established Increase in kinship placements	January 2012	Kinship Service set up
	To explore opportunities with Coventry City Council to make			

	the optimum of use of resources in recruiting, supporting and training adopters			
	To develop a protocol with health for accessing CAMHS services for children and young people placed out of county.			
	To explore the feasibility of having a Framework Agreement for residential care and educational placements required			
	To develop further supported hostel accommodation for care leavers as placement within any extended family arrangement appears unlikely for a significant number of young people known to Children's Services.			
	To develop and implement a strategy with housing providers and Supporting People to provide an equitable range of housing options for vulnerable young people.			
	To develop and implement supported lodgings arrangements for care leavers.			