

## Action Plans relating Looked After, Fostering and Adoption Services – Updated March 2013

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	April 2014	Ongoing Referred to as the 'Dartington' Project.
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	Completed 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	Completed
	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	Completed
	To respond to and implement changes required arising the Adoption Action Plan.	Service complies with national regulatory requirements	Ongoing	Completed
	To develop a support groups for adopters in the 'north' of the County.	All adopters have access to support group	March 2013	Completed
	To work with Fostering Services in the development on concurrent planning scheme, whereby young babies are placed with foster carers who are then in a position to adopt them should this be the plan.	Reduce placement delays and improve adoption performance timescale	September 2013	Ongoing Training event held – decision made to develop 'fostering to adoption' scheme.

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	Improve fostering preparation and assessment performance  Reduce reliance on IFA placements	October 2012	Completed
	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		Completed
	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	April 2014	Ongoing Significant improvement noted
	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 at a competitive price.	To reduce the unit cost of external fostering provision – to ensure that such arrangements do not adversely impact upon the internal provision	October 2013	Ongoing
	To review and improve processes to provide more permanent foster placements	To improve placement stability for looked after children and young people	September 2013	Ongoing Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To complete the review of foster	To ensure that the scheme	November 2012	Completed

	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.	complies with new QFC requirements Increase placement options for young people with complex needs Streamline arrangements and ensure consistency regarding long term savings	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 2014	Ongoing
	To recruit 30 fostering households over each 12 month period and complete 90% of the assessments within 6 months of application.	Increase placement choice, placement stability and reduce costs	March 2013	
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 increase efficiency Increase placement choice	Ongoing	
	To develop a protocol with health for accessing CAMHS services for children and young people placed out of county.	To increase placement stability and outcomes for LAC	January 2013	Completed Subject to review
	To explore the feasibility of having a Framework Agreement for residential care and educational placements required	To ensure quality and best value in negotiating placements	July 2012	Completed

	To develop further supported hostel accommodation for care leavers as placements within any extended family arrangement appears unlikely for a significant number of young people known to Children's Services.	To ensure living arrangements meet with statutory requirements  Increase placement choice  Enhance support and improve outcomes for care leavers	April 2014	Ongoing
	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 ensure living arrangements meet with statutory requirements  Increase placement choice  Enhance support and improve outcomes for care leavers	April 2014	Ongoing
	To develop and implement supported lodgings arrangements for care leavers.	To increase supported placement options	July 2012	Completed