

## Progress on the post Ofsted ILACS (Covid-19) Improvement Plan

**Update to  
Children's Scrutiny  
9/06/2020**



- Plan for post Ofsted Improvement is in the context of current response to CV-19
- National government has set clear priorities for local government, that are shared across Children's Services;
  - **Maintain the care system**
  - **Protect the most vulnerable**
  - **Support the community.**
- By doing these three things, we play our part to **protect the NHS and save lives.**
- We are delivering improvements to children's social care in this context

# CV-19 Four questions for all staff

- What support is needed to get families through the crisis?
- Who is best placed to provide that help?
- Who am I most worried about and why?
- Do I need to do something different today, tomorrow, next week?

# All children open to social workers

- Risk assessments complete in 92.3% of cases (20 May) following initial assessment
- Safety planning and contact with families address CV-19 issues
  - Increase in parental mental health and domestic violence
  - Increase in serious incidents to Under1s (local and national)
  - Contextual safeguarding issues for adolescents
- 90% of most vulnerable groups (reds) being contacted more than weekly
- In addition - daily contact from schools (up to half term) and support from other colleagues including Public Health Nursing
- All Senior Managers dip sample at least 10 risk assessments each week (ave.185 per week, 1106 total/3100 open cases) leading to moderation of risk judgements in 16% of cases
- Maintained all statutory expectations; ICPCs and children looked after reviews

# Vulnerable groups attending w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May

## Children in Care

Group	Numbers in cohort	Number attending	%
Devon CiC anywhere	499	86	<b>17%</b>
Devon CiC in Devon schools	483	81	<b>21%</b>
Other LA CiC in Devon schools	186	20	<b>11%</b>

## Children with EHCP plans

Group	Numbers in cohort	Number attending	%
Devon EHCP anywhere	4717	487	<b>10.3%</b>
Devon EHCP in Devon	4293	479	<b>11.2%</b>
EHCP in Devon (any LA)	4608	512	<b>11.1%</b>

## Children in need and those with a Child Protection Plan

Group	Numbers in cohort	Number attending	%
Child protection plans	292	105	<b>36%</b>
Children in Need (all)	1963	273	<b>14%</b>
Children in Need (allocated SW)	831	186	<b>22%</b>
Children in need with a plan	329	65	<b>20%</b>

RAG (inc those with EHCPs and school elevated)	Numbers in cohort	Number attending	%
Devon	628	180	<b>28.7%</b>
All LAs +	765	203	<b>16.8%</b>
Devon	1910	305	<b>16.0%</b>
All LAs +	2231	340	<b>15.2%</b>
Devon	4440	411	<b>9.3%</b>
All LAs +	5045	254	<b>9%</b>
Devon Other	387	32	<b>8.3%</b>
All LAs Other +	413	35	<b>11.5%</b>

**Early years, 2376 children are attending of whom 4 are vulnerable children**

# Progress on priority groups – care leavers

Scrutiny of weekly reports on care leavers in unacceptable accommodation and challenge and tracking of actions in relation to circumstances of 6 current cases;

## **Characteristics include;**

- Trauma, complex MH, substance misuse, chaotic behaviours, difficulties engaging with support, many offers of accommodation
- 3xSouth, 2xExeter, 1xM&E

**Plans include;** increased PA visiting, close liaison with Housing Depts, ensuring appropriate CAMHS support, food vouchers

Interim Senior Manager Vanessa Strang now in post, AMs appointed

Practice development taking place with TMs and AMs

Additional support in place, appointments to 10 additional Personal Adviser posts

Priority improvement work areas started include permanence and pathway planning

# Priority groups – unregulated provision

Continued scrutiny of weekly reports and challenge to progress; 3 children currently inappropriately placed in unregulated arrangements (as of 11/05/20)

## **Characteristics of this group;**

- 2 - 16 year olds with complex needs and high levels of support (living in semi-independence).
- 1 - 17 year old with complex health needs being supported to transition into appropriate (regulated) adults' provision.

Extensive national placement searching continues.

No increase seen in numbers of children looked after as yet but capacity in mainstream residential if needed and plans in place for rapid scaling up of residential provision if needed

4 additional in-house fostering households approved using new fast tracking foster carer approval process, 12 more households to follow. Limited capacity for older children.

Developing fast track approval process for DCC staff if needed

- Whole system approach to legal work; DCC legal team, CAFCASS and Courts
- All PLO cases (12 weeks+) have been reviewed and clear plans are in place
- Improvement Lead providing weekly challenge and tracking of actions needed in individual cases
- Children stepping back to child protection and children in need plans where appropriate
- Extensions to 12 weeks timeframe being increasingly used in a more purposeful way
- Development of Countywide dataset and systems to provide oversight of practice across PLO, care proceedings and permanence
- SW practice and confidence; tools, guidance and workforce development
- Appointment of Case Progression Workers to support social work preparation of evidence
- Monitoring court capacity through this time



# Progress on Permanence for children looked after

- Permanence Plans on Carefirst were not migrated to Eclipse, solution being developed
- **In March;** a review by Independent Reviewing Officers identified that;
  - 75% (570 children) had a Permanence Plan
  - 12% (90 children) of children looked after had been in care less than four months
  - 13% (100 children) missing Permanence Plans, currently being addressed
- **In April;** IROs escalation 20 cases for Permanence Planning reasons
- **In May;** IROs confirmed that 96% of relevant cases had a Permanence Plan in place
- **Since Ofsted;** improved oversight of completion of PP has been put in place by Locality Directors through Locality Panels
- LDs confirmed that Permanence Planning meetings will have been held for all children by 01 June
- Approach being agreed for confirming permanence plans in Corporate Parenting Service
- **Future improvements;** the development of guidance, improved practice approaches and better oversight of data to ensure appropriate and timely permanence plans are made in all cases
- **Focus of QA ;** to move to quality, the appropriateness of plan, quality of permanence work (including life story work) and that the voice of child and families is considered

# Next steps (June)

- Next phase of improvement planning in the context of the next phase of covid-19 response
- Preparing for impact of children returning to school/services
- More comprehensive approach to improvement addressing all Ofsted findings
- Three further improvement phases: wider impact, embedding and evaluating improvements
- Moving to shadow Improvement Partnership arrangements
- Arrangements for Commissioner/Independent Chair