

OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN CONTENTS

SCS / LAA Outcome

Improved stability for children aged under 16 who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for at least 2 years.

LAA Indicator, Baseline and Targets

NI63 / APA 2067 / PAF D78 / PSA LAA.

In 2006/07 56.9% of children achieved this level of stability. The target for 2008/09 is 66%(09/10 -68% and 10/11 -70%)

Geographic Area Covered	County wide	Yes
	Other	
Any District or local targets		No. The children affected by this target live in foster homes and children's homes across the county.

Outcome Delivery Lead Officer	Vanessa Bishop /Cath Sartoris
Outcome Delivery Partnership(s)	None

What do we do now to deliver the outcome?

Please give a brief description of the current approach used to deliver the outcome/target and the partners involved. Estimate of current resources used.

There are a number of placement support mechanisms in place. These include; an out of hours Foster care support line; a comprehensive training and development programme; specialist training from the CAMHS young people's team, access to a specialist worker from the family support team, support from fostering and child care social workers.

What options are there to deliver on the new target?

The options suggested to achieving the outcome/targets – what new interventions/services could be commissioned?

Extended hours placement support workers who could offer practical support to foster carers .

Foster placements that can meet the needs of adolescents

What could we stop doing, do less of or better to focus on this target?

What options are there for reconfiguring or decommissioning other services to refocus on the priority outcome?

None

What alternative providers exist?

Commissioning – what alternative delivery agencies or partners exist?

The Independent fostering agencies can potentially provide alternative placements to the in house providers but they do not tend to specialize in the provision of placements for older children in Care.

What is the recommended approach and reasons why?

Options appraisal and recommendations on preferred option. What evidence is there that the approach will work?

To continue with a mixed economy of placement provision that includes both in house and purchased residential and foster placements that meet the assessed needs of children.

To continue developing placement support mechanisms. These include new services, for example the Educational Psychology service is going to offer a 'surgery' for foster carers to enable them to support school placements, the education of Looked after children service will increasing support educational placements, there is to be a new post within the Family Support team specifically to support children in this cohort

What is delivery of the target dependent on?

Include the assumptions being made in terms of preferred delivery option?

What is innovative about the proposal?

How will the project contribute to other SCS/LAA outcomes?

NI 62 is linked with this target (CIC who have more than 3 placement moves in one year) but there is good performance in this area.

What are the risks to delivery?

Include Key Risks to Delivery – likelihood/impact on target delivery and action required to mitigate.

The delivery target is very challenging, because of the current profile of the CIC population. The number of young people aged 14 and over is disproportionate to the rest of the population. There are proportionately fewer kinship foster placements which tend to have greater stability as the children in these placements have other permanency options arranged for them

There are 105 children and young people in this year's cohort of them 21 are aged 14, 45 are aged 10 to 13. the 8 children aged 3 and under will all move out of the cohort as they become adopted thus making the proportion of older children in the cohort of greater statistical significance

Of these 105 who will be counted in the 2008/09 figure , on the 1st April 2008 70 had been in the same placement for more than two years, giving a figure of 66.7%, this can only decrease as children have placement moves. The age profile of the cohort makes placement moves very likely.

A examination of the group of children and young people who are in this cohort shows that there are no equality and diversity issues. The main factors affecting stability of placements are age at placement, the behaviours and difficulties of the children and significant events in the foster carers lives.

Milestones/Timescales – Outline Implementation Plan

Include key delivery actions and milestones – by when?

- Appoint to Placement Support worker within Family Support Team by October 2008
- Start Educational Psychology Surgery for foster carers by September 2008
- Implement Induction standards and developmental programme for foster carers by October 2008
- Have first meeting of the implementation group by October 2008

What resources are being provided by Lead/Partner Agencies.

Internal resources are being provided by the Family Placement Team, the Family Support Team ,Child Care Operations, Educational Psychology service, The Education of CIC Team. The mental health grant supports the out of hours foster care support line. The Care Matters grant is funding an additional part time post for placement support in the Family Support Team

The CAMHS Young People's team provides ongoing training, assessment and consultation

Financial and other resources (if any) sought from LT for delivery?

Please provide estimate of costs and new resources required to deliver on preferred option. Include resources being used and any bids for extra funds.

Identify staffing resources being sought?

What are the estimated project closure costs?

There are no current bids for additional funds, the post provided by the Care Matters Grant is being targeted at placement stability objectives

Who is involved?

Agencies that will be involved in contributing to target delivery.

None

What contributions are expected from partner agencies?

None

What are the communication channels?

Identify arrangements to communicate progress on the outcomes.

There will be regular meetings of The placement Stability group membership will include, the Family Placement Team, The Education of CIC Service, Educational Psychology, Management Information, The Family Support Team.

COMMENTS