

# Derby's Looked After Children Strategy

## 2015 – 2018

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## Introduction

This strategy aims to ensure that Derby City Council delivers the best outcomes for the children and young people in our care. As a Council we are committed to ensuring that every Looked After Child has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential, and has a safe and positive experience with us as their corporate parent. Our Looked After Children come to us due to a variety of reasons and at every age; this strategy and pledge is for all of them.

The Children in Care Pledge was developed by our Children in Care Council, this is a promise given by the Council and its partners about the quality and nature of care that any child or young person can expect if they become looked after, and has been reviewed and amended by the Children in Care Council during 2015.

Our Looked After Children and Care Leavers rely on all agencies to work together to meet their needs. The annual Action Plan that accompanies this document sets out clearly how we will deliver our priorities, who will lead this work and where it will be monitored and reviewed.

We believe that this strategy will support our joint working on the most important issues, to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our Looked After Children and Care Leavers herein Derby.

To be signed by Elected Member and Director

## Vision

The Strategy has been developed by the City Council and partners and is underpinned by:

### **The Derby Plan 2013 – 2015**

One of the key ambitions is for citizens to have an inspiring start in life, with a focus on improving educational attainment.

### **The Council Plan 2015 – 2018**

Over recent years, Derby City Council has seen a significant increase in the demand for services which we provide. This is alongside a change in the demography of the city which continues to see steady growth in the 0-19 age group, and a 25% average increase in demand for early help and social care services for children and young people. There has also been an increase in new arrivals to the city, with at least 7% of the current population being a resident of the UK for less than 10 years. The focus in 2015 and beyond is on 'must do's' and includes a number of pledges:

- The 'Safe Derby' pledge includes making sure that we safeguard vulnerable children and young people, with a key theme and priority for delivery of 'making sure that we take action when vulnerable children require higher levels of support including; our looked after children'
- The 'Strong Derby' pledge describes support for new and diverse communities, and making sure that all residents in the city can access our services
- The 'Ambitious Derby' pledge refers to attainment and skills – supporting children in being ready to start school, and raising educational attainment at all levels.

This strategy also supports the Children and Young People's Commissioning Service Plan 2015 - 2016, which is our integrated strategy and sets out key priorities for working together with stakeholders such as Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group to target services effectively towards vulnerable children and young people across the City.

The vision of the DerbyStrategy for Looked After Children is simple; we would like our children and young people to have everything that all good parents want for their children. We want them to work with us, along with their parents and carers, in shaping how we manage and organise the planning, resources and services that support and care for them. We want our children and young people to be happy and healthy, both physically and emotionally, to be safe and protected from harm and exploitation, and to be supported each step of the way to independent life as adults. We want them to achieve their potential, especially at school, and to be involved in the decisions affecting their care and their lives. Looked After children and young people face additional barriers throughout their life and we have developed additional ambitions to support our aspirations:

### **Ambitions**

- Children and young people to live with their parents and families within their communities where it is safe to do so, with a commitment to reviewing this at different stages
- To look for permanency and stability where this is not possible
- To live in Derby or as close by as is practicable and appropriate
- Support young people to Stay Put wherever possible
- To consult, listen to and hear the voice of our Looked After Children and to act on this
- To meet placement needs with a range of placement options that considers quality and cost

We will also identify the challenges that we face in the sufficiency of carers and placements, and have detailed the actions that we propose to take to address this through a Sufficiency Strategy 2015 to 2018.

### **Derby in Context**

Derby is a compact city of 30 square miles with a total resident population of 251,423 representing 182 nationalities, speaking 71 languages (JSNA). Derby's population has changed significantly since the last Census in 2001 when it was recorded at 221,716. The population has increased by approximately 18,000 people (7.8%); comprising 3,300 more children aged 0-4 years.<sup>1</sup>

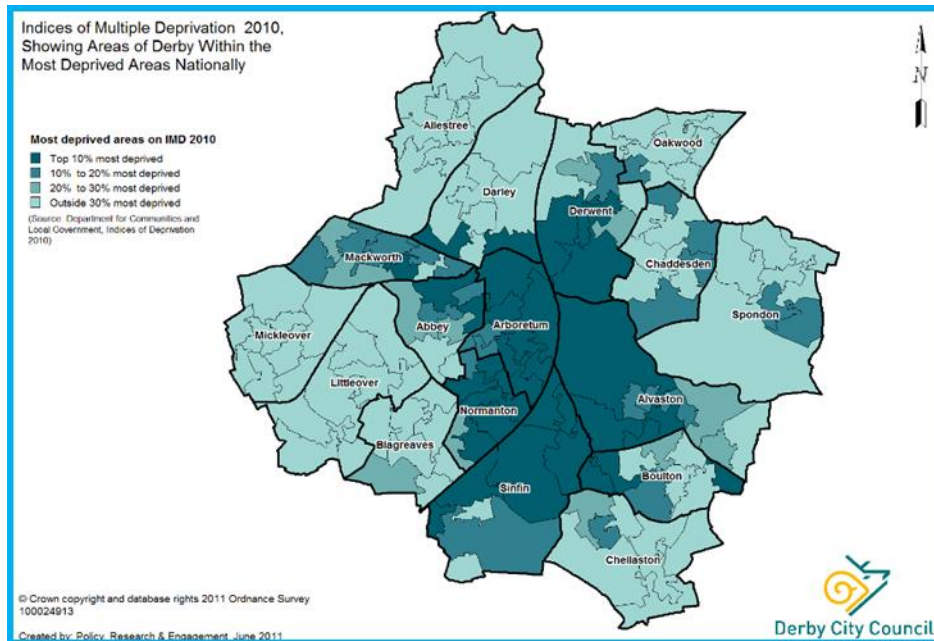
There are approximately 60,397 children and young people aged 0 to 18 in Derby City; representing 24.3% of the total population of the city. The city is divided into 17 wards and is

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<sup>1</sup> Derby and Derbyshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2015

ranked as the 55<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority, with some of our wards being the most deprived in the country<sup>2</sup>.

32% of Derby's under 18's live in the most deprived wards compared to a 'usual resident' population of 26%. Our JSNA tells us that the top five wards in Derby where Children were in Care on the 31st March 2015 are some of the most deprived in the City (Derwent, Sinfin, Arboretum, Normanton, Alvaston); highlighting the link between neglect and poverty to the increasing need for the involvement of services.



Immigration is a key consideration for the city, in total, 34,600 individuals (14%) were born outside the UK. Minority ethnic communities now represent approximately 25% of Derby's total population; which has increased from 15.7% in 2001<sup>3</sup>. There has also been a significant influx of migrants from Eastern Europe, including from the Roma community, which has been observed as impacting on many services for children and young people across the city.

At the end of March 2015 there were 470 looked after children and young people in the city, which was a 6% increase on the previous year, and at the end of December 2015 this had risen to 487. Increases were also recorded in the demand for early help services, children in need and children in the city with a child protection plan.

### **Profile of Derby's looked after children**

Our JSNA tells us that a higher percentage of new Child Protection referrals have been consistently received for males rather than females.

At 30 June 2015 the largest percentage of Derby's 467 looked after children were:

<sup>2</sup> DCLG English Indices of Deprivation September 2015

<sup>3</sup> Derby and Derbyshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2015

## Classification: OFFICIAL

- Male (61.2%, the highest proportion in 3 years)
- White British (69%, compared to 74% in June 2014)
- Aged 10 – 15 years (36.6%, 16+ year olds are at the highest number since 2012)
- In care for less than 1 year (26.8%) or between 5 and 10 years (21.6%) are the most common categories
- Looked after with the legal status of 'full care order' (48%).

Our JSNA details that the number of families accessing early help services has risen; with over 800 families in the city having an 'open' early help assessment at the end of March 2015 due to a number of factors including increases in complex families, especially larger family units and migrant families from Eastern Europe. Linked to this there has been a recent growth in entrants to care from a broader range of BME groups including 'Asian and Asian British', 'White Other' and 'Gypsy/Roma/Traveller'.

Derbysaw 191 children start care during 2014-15 which is an increase from 160 seen during 2013-14. This represents our highest figure of new entrants over the past six years. 68% of Derby's Looked After Children enter care as a result of abuse or neglect, 9.38% due to socially unacceptable behaviour, 6.25% due to parental illness or disability and 3.13% due to family dysfunction. The largest percentage of new referrals to care are for children aged 0 – 4 years (44% of new cases during 2014/15), which is a trend that has been consistent for the last three years.

There are high rates of children and young people within Derby City exiting care through adoption, with 17% of children looked after between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 achieving this permanent outcome.

For those children who remain looked after, health and educational outcomes are generally in line with comparators...

Measures	Derby City 14/15	Comparator average 13/14	National average 13/14
Key Stage 2 L4+ in RWM	44%	47.1%	48%
GSCEs 5 A*-C including English and Maths	16.1%	18.7%	16.3%
Annual health check	88.5%	90.3%	88.4%
Development assessments	77.4%	86.8%	86.8%
Immunisations	97.8%	91.3%	87.1%
Dental checks	92.5%	80.3%	84.4%
SDQ scores	16.1	14.4	13.8
Offending	4.4% (13/14)	5.9%	5.6%

A key area for improvement remains the emotional health and wellbeing of our looked after children, which needs to be assessed and assured through annual health checks, including the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The outcome of these assessments must be reflected in any placement decisions that we make.

## Classification: OFFICIAL

In terms of a response to issues specific to identified neighbourhoods, a new family support scheme was introduced in Locality 3 (Normanton, Abbey and Arboretum) in October 2015 to address high levels of Child Protection and Children in Care from this locality. This scheme is Derby's launch of the Department for Education Innovation Fund programme 'Safe Families for Children' service. This intervention will target families where a young child is at the 'edge of care', and provide evidence based interventions to increase emotional wellbeing for children and carers, reduce parental stress and anxiety, and reduce the numbers of children entering foster care placements.

### **Placement profile**

There has been a considerable shift in the placement of Derby's looked after children since March 2011. There are now on average more children placed outside of the city boundary than within it (54% at the end of March 2015).

The vast majority of children remain placed with Foster Carers (73.8%), followed by 'Children's Homes and Hostels' (9.4%) and then placed with Parents (7.9%).

Alongside the increase in children placed in neighbouring authorities (the top three areas for Derby's children are Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire) there has been a comparable rise in the use of Independent Fostering Agency placements.

The increase in demand for foster care placements continues to place pressure on the Council's budget, with the demand for high-cost specialist placements also increasing.

There is a current improvement plan in place to re build and refurbish Derby City Council's children homes, which will be completed in March 2018. This will offer 24 mainstream residential places and 5 specialist disability placements at Shine. Externally purchased residential placements are commissioned when the in house solution is not possible, or when the child's needs are more complex and a specialist bespoke placement needs to be explored.

## **Outcomes for this Strategy**

### **1. Voice of the Child**

Derby People's Services recognise it is important to ensure the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people are listened to and that they are treated with dignity and respect. Children and young people should be involved in, and understand, the decisions made about their lives. They should be supported to understand how to get the information, advice and support they need, and how to complain.

#### **Derby's Pledge to Children in Care states that:**

- We will respect you for who you are and help you to develop a strong sense of personal identity, maintain your cultural and religious beliefs
- We will show you how to contact your social worker, we will tell you who to contact if things go wrong and what to do if you need urgent help



- We will ensure your voice is at the heart of all decisions made about you and that you understand why and when meetings are held
- We will help you to understand all of your rights and help you to join with other young people to share your views, concerns and aspirations
- If you need someone to talk to, this includes evenings and weekends, we will make sure you know who to call.

### **What we have done so far**

We have an effective Corporate Parenting Committee that gives strategic direction and overview for improving outcomes for looked after children and young people. The Corporate Parenting Committee meets on a quarterly basis as is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding.

The Committee regularly reviews performance, identifies gaps in service, focuses on areas for development and robustly challenges services to deliver improvements. The Committee promotes improved working together and overviews outcomes for looked after children and young people across partner agencies as corporate parents. Members of the Committee champion the needs of looked after children and young people across both the Council and City. The Committee strives to listen to the voice of children and young people and challenge services where they think they are not actively engaging with our looked after and adopted children and young people.

Children in Care are represented on the Corporate Parenting Committee through representative members of the Children in Care Council attending meetings. As well as this the Chair of The Corporate Parenting Committee is committed to attending Children in Care Council meetings on a regular basis.

The committee also makes connections with other boards and committees as required including the Derby Children's Safeguarding Board and Children Family and Learners Board.

The work of the Corporate Parenting Committee is supported by the Corporate Parenting Lead. The Children's Rights Service commissioned by Derby City Council offers an Advocacy Service which provides volunteer advocates when requested.

### **What we are doing next**

Extend our offer for participation in the Children in Care Council to ensure it is more representative of the LAC population.

Complete a review of the Children's Rights Service and develop commissioning intentions for beyond the contract end of 31 March 2017.

Support and work with the Children in Care Council to hold all Council departments to account for delivering against the Pledge for children in care and care leavers.

## **2. Good and safe placements**

Children and young people should be in good placements where they feel safe and supported. They should receive information about their placement in advance and be listened to if they have concerns about it at any time. The placement should offer them a positive experience of family life or children's home care.

Consultation was undertaken in 2015 with members of the Derby Children in Care Council as well as feedback from children and young people in care from across the East Midlands at a special event. In total over 20 children and young people gave their views. When asked what makes a good foster or children's home placement the children and young people said they want a homely and friendly placement, they were clear that they want to be listened to and have a say in their care, furthermore they emphasized the importance of having a robust matching process with a choice of placements rather than being rushed into a placement without any consultation with the child or young person. Children and young people want a supportive and nurturing environment, where they feel safe and cared for. Bullying was a big feature in their feedback. Children and young people want to be able to talk to their foster carers and residential staff about bullying, they want a safe placement where there is robust policy on how to deal with bullying, and staff and carers are encouraging, caring and listen to children and young people. Young people said they want to be involved in the training of foster carers and children's residential homes staff.

**Derby's Children in Care Pledge states that:**

- We will provide a safe place for you to live. We want you to know that you are safe, protected and valued and can trust those caring for you

**What we have done so far**

Commissioned an advocacy service delivered by a voluntary sector provider to respond to concerns raised by children and young people in care.

Our in-house children's home staff team understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable. Bullying is not tolerated and interventions take place immediately. Each Young Persons Behaviour Management plan details how we work with the bully and the victim to make sure it stops. Staff will continue to work with young people to ensure they are aware of peer abuse and cyber bullying and histories are monitored. Comprehensive policy guidance supports us to deal with bullying quickly and effectively.

**What we are doing next**

Continue to be involved in the East Midlands Regional Children's Framework which is being re-procured, which allows the sourcing of independent fostering and children's home placements. In addition we are supporting young people to be involved in monitoring the quality of provision, both children's homes and supported accommodation, to enhance the work undertaken by the regional team who monitor providers at a more strategic level.

Creation of a joined up looked after children emotional health and wellbeing team including social workers and clinical psychology expertise, to continue to provide therapeutic interventions for children in care and also support foster carers and residential staff with advice on behaviour management, but in a more co-ordinated way by joint commissioning with Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The service is due to commence in April 2016, and will contribute to the training of new and established foster carers, and provide advice to social workers on the needs of children and young people. The provision will also continue the role of support to young people who have experienced sexual abuse whether or not they are in care.

Training to be developed for foster carers and in house children's home staff on bullying in terms of prevention and also appropriate responses.



Development of opportunities for Children in Care to become involved in the training of foster carers as part of the “Skills to Foster” pre-approval training programme, and potentially post-approval training also, where this is appropriate.

Young people to be involved in delivering some training to in-house children’s home staff which will include the opportunity to gain feedback from young people, and for them to raise issues about the support and services that children and young people receive. This work will be supported by our Children’s Rights Service who provide advocacy and manage the Children in Care Council.

### **3. Relationships**

Children and young people are supported to maintain, build and sustain positive relationships with others, including their birth families, siblings in care, carers and their peers. It is vital that children and young people in our care are able to enjoy positive relationships and opportunities to develop their own interests and aspirations, and maximise their ability to make good choices and to stay safe.

#### **The Derby Children in Care pledge ensures that:**

- We will encourage and support you to participate in wider opportunities to build your confidence so you are able to make safe decisions for yourself.

#### **What we have done so far**

Continue to provide an Independent Visitor service through the Children’s Rights Service.

Continue to provide an Exit from Care team who offer professional assessment and support for children and young people leaving care to return home to their family.

Recently re-commissioned an Independent Supervised Contact service for LAC.

#### **What we are doing next**

Review and consider the extension of the Independent Supervised Contact contract.

### **4. Transition into adulthood - Leaving Care**

At the regional consultation event in 2015 children and young people said it was important to receive appropriate support and advice in preparing for independence particularly around developing the right budgeting skills. Derby City Council’s Leaving Care Youth Council also suggested service improvement areas which have been incorporated into this strategy; they are concerned about not having the appropriate skills and support to succeed with their own tenancy.

#### **The Derby Children in Care pledge states that we will:**

- We will join with you to celebrate your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and ensure you are prepared for and supported into adulthood

**What have we done so far**

Created a Staying Put scheme, which makes it possible for young people to remain with their foster family beyond the age of 18.

Established a supported accommodation framework for young people, or 'children in need' and care leavers to access appropriate housing with support to promote and enable independent living.

Established a Leaving Care Youth Council which comprises of a core group of care leavers to enable them to give feedback on the support they receive and to address service improvements.

**What will be doing next**

Reviewing all Children in Care who are aged 14 and over with a view to planning and pathway work towards independence, to support young people to develop skills and experience in independent living at the most appropriate and earliest opportunity.

Our in-house children's homes recognise their role in preparing young people for, and supporting them in transitioning to independence. This practical and emotional independence training starts upon their admission irrespective of their age. Supporting them in building resilience from an early age is essential to ensure good outcomes on leaving care. All of the Children's Homes use a Life Skills Inventory and Independent Living Skills Assessment Tool, which is designed to support young people's development and progression towards a successful move to independence. Phase Two of the Children's Homes Development Project includes the development of a self-contained flat at both Coronation Avenue and Queensferry Gardens. This will provide an invaluable resource in better supporting some young people to make the transition to adulthood by accessing semi-independent accommodation supported by familiar staff.

Review the Supported Accommodation Framework and co-produce the future proposals for this vital leaving care service alongside the Leaving Care Youth Council. Prior to this a series of staff training roadshow events to be delivered by Children's Social Care, Youth Offending, and Housing Options teams in January and February 2016 around homelessness, benefits and suitable accommodation for care leavers and under 18's who are children in need, with the aim of maximising the use of the Framework and reducing inappropriate placements and tenancy breakdown.

## **5. Education**

Children and young people receive a planned and stable education which enables them to fulfil their educational, social and emotional potential, and to have high aspirations for their future.

**The Derby Children in Care pledge states that LAC will:**

- We will support you to get the most from your education and encourage you to reach all your goals and achieve your potential.

## **Education Governance**

Many Looked After Children have suffered disrupted learning and may have missed extended periods of school and the gaps in their learning are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress.

Valuing and supporting the education of children in care is one of the most important contributions a Corporate Parent can make to the lives of Looked After Children, because it is about investing in and caring about their future, and recognising that education is their passport to better life chances.

Since 1 September 2009, the governing bodies of all maintained schools have been required under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of looked after children on the school roll. A key process is the work required in producing a high quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) – this should form an integral part of the Care Plan.

Under the direction of its Head Teacher, the Virtual School exists to ensure the highest level of support and challenge to all those involved in the education of looked after children, however It does not replace the role of school or educational provision.

The focus for the Virtual School is on:

- Improving school attendance;
- Raising attainment and progress in learning;
- Promoting participation in activities in and out of school, and;
- Ensuring young people participate in line with RPA requirements
- Co-ordinating the educational data, information and intelligence about each CiC to support the Strategy.

### **What we have done so far:**

1. In 2015 the Virtual School commissioned Welfare Call to track the attendance of LAC, on a daily basis; in addition they will also collect the attainment and progress data termly.
2. The Virtual School have implemented an e-PEP to replace the paper version. This captures in a more systematic way the educational data, targets and associated funding related to the LAC and the activities undertaken by the young person.
3. LAC are supported in their educational setting by additional Pupil Premium Plus funding from the DfE. This is distributed in accordance with the Pupil Premium Plus Policy guidelines.
4. Social Worker training has been undertaken to support educational attainment.
5. Systematic process established for quality relating to Personal Education Plans.

The attendance rate for LAC in the academic year 2014/15 was 94%.

### **What we are doing next**

The main actions moving forward are to:

- Improve the outcomes and progress of LAC in education

- Create monthly management information reports on LAC
- Establish a yearly training calendar for all people involved in supporting LAC
- Extend Pupil Premium Plus to early years settings
- Explore the possibility of extending the virtual school to early years and post 16 settings

## **6. Health**

There are a range of indicators to assess whether the statutory health needs of children in care have been met, and the aspiration is to achieve better health outcomes through access to appropriate health care services and support for children in care to better manage their own health.

Statistics reveal that looked after children have:

- A higher incidence of long term conditions – speech and language delay, bedwetting, asthma, allergies, coordination difficulties and unrecognised visual and hearing impairment
- Up to 72% have mental health and emotional health problems
- A higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy
- Much more likely to experience poor health, educational and social outcomes in adulthood<sup>4</sup>

**The Derby Children in Care pledge states that LAC will:**

- We will help you to access all the services you need to keep you healthy and safe.

### **What we have done so far:**

During 2014/15 more than the target of 96% of LAC participated in their statutory health reviews. At the end of 2014/15 80.6% of LAC had their statutory health needs met, which exceeds the target of 80%.

### **What we are doing next**

- Improve the completion rates of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire which helps to identify how children and young people are doing in terms of their emotional health and behaviour.
- Review performance against health measures such as dental checks and immunisations, and target areas for improvement during 2016 to be monitored by the Children in Care Commissioning Group.
- Develop the offer for supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of Looked After Children including those who have been sexually abused.

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/new-guidance-looked-after-children-includes-call-increased-time-named-doctors-assess-and-support>

## **Governance Arrangements for Children in Care**

Deciding that a child or young person can no longer safely live with their parents or family and become Looked After are critical decisions for both the child and their family and for the Council, and are subject to scrutiny and a decision making process. Derby City Council operates a **Gateway Panel** chaired by a Head of Service or Service Director, to consider all cases where there is an intention to apply for a care order, this professionals meeting makes the decision as to whether or not this course of action is taken. Internal fostering and residential placements are made following a clear and consistent process. Where an in house placement is not available or appropriate then an external placement will be considered.

The process for making a decision on an external foster, residential, semi-independent or independent placement is made via a financial authorisation route with consultation with social workers, team managers, head of service and sign off from Service Director for foster and semi-independent/independent placements, with further agreement from the Strategic Director for any external residential placements. External placements are sourced by the Access to Resource team in Commissioning using the East Midlands Regional Children's Framework for foster and residential placements, and the Supported Accommodation Framework for 16 and 17 year olds for semi-independent/independent placements.

**Complex needs panel** meets on a monthly basis and its purpose is to discuss and agree joint funding arrangements for children/young people with complex needs, shared between Social Care, Health and Education. Linked to eligibility criteria, the scope of the panel is:

- Children up to the age of 18 years with complex care needs including children with continuing care needs
- Children with complex mental health needs, and/or moderate to severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour
- Children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and challenging behaviour
- Children in care including children and young people placed for adoption
- Young people with a learning disability who require specialist college provision locally and out of area

**Residential Panel;** the overall ambition for the residential panel is to meet children and young people's placement needs, improve children in care outcomes and balance the demands of cost and quality.

- To consider referrals for a children homes placement for individuals
- To utilise Derby's own children's homes and consider external children's homes in exceptional circumstance
- To place children in care in Derby or close by

The **Children in Care Commissioning Group** meets quarterly and has a focus on the commissioning and delivery of services for children in care, on the edge of care or custody. The aim is to ensure that an integrated approach is developed and maintained, and to share best practise.

## Delivering our priorities

What?	Who?	By when?	How much will it cost?	What difference will it make?
Review all external residential placements for quality and cost and transition to own provision or family	MD/HL	On-going – monthly meetings	No cost	Ensure LAC are in the most appropriate placement and promote step down where possible.
Launch the 'Safe Families for Children' service to target families where a young child is at the 'edge of care'.	MD	Start October 2015	No cost during 2015/16	Address high levels of Child Protection and Children in Care from this locality through targeted interventions. Improve emotional health and wellbeing of child and parent/carer and reduce parental stress. Also reduce foster care placements.
Establish residential panel for internal and external placements	HL	October 2015	No cost	To provide governance and scrutiny to decision making.
Review the 14 plus age group of LAC in IFA placements	DC	April 2016	No cost	Improve quality and reduce cost, and transition to own provision or family where appropriate. Undertake planning and pathway work towards independence.
Review the Supported Housing Framework	CY	March 2016		Year 2 ends on 31 August 2016.
Review all LAC whose plan changed from adoption to assess potential for IFA carers to become DCC carers	DC	April 2016	No cost	Reduce costs and provide permanence.
Recruit and retain foster carers	SP	On-going		Increase numbers recruited and maximise retention.
Following entry into care always review potential for return home	HOS	Implement policy guidance by Dec 2015	Use existing Exit from Care team to support cases.	Ensure most appropriate care plan.
Develop training for in house foster carers and children's home staff on bullying	CO	January 2016		Increase awareness about bullying and reduce incidences / improve how CYP feel about bullying and actions / support when it occurs.
Include LAC in the recruitment and training of foster carers	SP	April 2016	No additional cost	The Children's Rights Service will promote this through the CiC Council during 2015/16.
Complete a review of the Children's Rights Service and develop commissioning	AS/PA	Sept 2016	No cost	Ensure procurement is undertaken in accordance with EU regulations and that the service reflects DCC



What?	Who?	By when?	How much will it cost?	What difference will it make?
intentions.				requirements.
Extend our offer for participation in the Children in Care Council to ensure it is more representative of the LAC population.	AS/PA	June 2016	No cost	Better opportunities for participation and increased variety of views to inspire a meaningful agenda and make a difference.
Continue to be involved in the East Midlands Regional Children's Framework which is being re-procured	CY	Feb 2016		DCC will continue to use the EMRCF to source independent fostering and children's home placements.
Involve young people in monitoring the quality of provision, both children's homes and supported accommodation, to enhance the work undertaken by the regional team who monitor providers at a more strategic level.	CY	Commence pilot – October 2015  Develop and agree process – Jan 2016		Inspire service improvements through the use of the voice of the child or young person.
Creation of a joined up looked after children emotional health and wellbeing team by joint commissioning with Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group.	CCG/AS	April 2016 – pilot to commence		To provide therapeutic interventions for CiC and also support foster carers and residential staff with advice on behaviour management. To train new and established foster carers, and provide advice to social workers on the needs of children and young people. To support young people who have been sexually abused.
Development of opportunities for Children in Care to become involved in the training of foster carers as part of the "Skills to Foster" pre-approval training programme, and potentially post- approval training also.	SP/CO	October 2016		Allow LAC to influence training and share their experience and suggest areas for consideration or improvement, and support the training programme.
Young people will be involved in delivering some training to in-house children's home staff which will be supported by our Children's Rights Service who provide advocacy and manage the Children in Care Council.	RJ/PA	July 2016		This will include the opportunity to gain feedback from young people, and for them to raise issues about the support and services that children and young people receive.
Review and consider the extension of the Independent Supervised Contact contract.	AS/DC	January 2016		Ensure service continuity is appropriate.

What?	Who?	By when?	How much will it cost?	What difference will it make?
<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look to improve the outcomes and progress of LAC in education</li> <li>The creation of monthly management information reports on LAC</li> <li>Establish a yearly training calendar for all people involved in supporting LAC</li> <li>Extend Pupil Premium Plus to early years settings</li> <li>Explore the possibility of extending the virtual school to early years and post 16 settings</li> </ul>	GF	December 2016		<p>Improved educational outcomes and ability to identify areas for concern, with a fast response.</p> <p>Share and champion best practice.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to support post 16 students in alternative models of education.</p>
<p>Improve the completion rates of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire which helps to identify how children and young people are doing in terms of their emotional health and behaviour.</p>	PS	April 16 – April 17		<p>Better understanding of the emotional health and wellbeing of LAC, and link the completion of the SDG to the annual health assessment, and in turn a response where the young person needs additional support.</p>
<p>Review performance against health measures such as dental checks and immunisations, and target areas for improvement during 2016 to be monitored by the Children in Care Commissioning Group.</p>	LS	Sept 2016		<p>Ensure our LAC receive the levels of health care which are required.</p>

To: All Directors of Children's Services  
Date 12.6.2015

**RE: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED IN  
DERBY BY OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Derby City Council would like to notify you about the resources and facilities available to looked after children and young people who may be placed in our area by your local authority.

Within this letter we set out the process to notify us when a looked after child or young person is placed in Derby or when their placement arrangements change. We also include information about our Virtual School for Looked After Children and information about accessing services.

Please disseminate this information to relevant professionals within your Children's Social Care Service. We hope that this information will help your professional staff to understand and access services that are available to children and young people residing in Derby. If you have any foster carers based in Derby it would be helpful if you also passed this letter onto them so they are aware of the services available to children and young people in the city.

It would be useful to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to any of our looked after children we may have placed in your local authority area.

**Notifications**

Prior to placing children in Derby, please write to myself using the mailbox [cicplacementnotification@derby.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:cicplacementnotification@derby.gcsx.gov.uk). As required by regulations please include your assessment of the child's needs and care plan. Please refer to our website: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-family-care/children-in-care/ooa-placements/> for further information and a copy of our notification form.

Please confirm via the same route if the child is then placed and ensure we have details of the child's social worker, placement, their school, GP and any specialist services arranged for the child. Please also alert us to any risk issues for the child and if YOS are involved.

It is important that we are notified by the same route when a child leaves the city or ceases to be looked after, including where an adoption order is made.

**Education**

All of our schools, academies and colleges have a collective responsibility to ensure that all children and young people have access to the best possible learning opportunities so that they can achieve their full potential.

For Children in Care moving into Derby City the child's Social Worker should contact our Admissions Team as soon as possible to discuss the application process. They can contact Primary School Admissions on 01332 642728 and Secondary Admissions on 01332 642725 between 8:30 – 17:00 Monday to Thursday and 8:30 – 16:30 Friday. Contact also can be made electronically by emailing [admissions@derby.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@derby.gov.uk) or completing the e-forms on the Derby City Admissions website

For Primary School

admissions: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/forms/DerbyCityCouncil-infant-junior-or-primary-schools-in-year-admissions-form-2014.pdf>

For Secondary School admissions:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/forms/DerbyCityCouncil-secondary-schools-in-year-admissions-form-2014.pdf>

All schools in Derby City have a Designated Teacher for children in care. Their statutory role is to promote the educational achievement of **all** children in care in their school, regardless of their responsible authority.

Derby City has a Virtual School for children in care. The Virtual School works with Derby City's schools, Residential Homes, Health, the Admissions Team, the Advisory Teacher for Exclusions and the School Improvement Service to monitor, challenge, support and provide intervention to ensure good educational outcomes for children in care. The Virtual School works collaboratively with respective colleagues in other local authorities and will support any school in Derby City with queries relating to children on their roll who may be placed in Derby City by another local authority.

The Virtual School also supports adoptive parents and adopted children where possible.

For more information, please contact the Virtual School Head Teacher on 01332 640341, the Virtual School Specialist Education Officer on 01332 641439 or the Virtual School Project Support Officer on 01332 640346.

### **Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision**

Derby has a wide range of early years' providers, offering a sufficiency of places, including free places for 2-4 year olds. This includes Local Authority nursery classes, private nurseries, voluntary sector groups and child minders, as well as before/after school and holiday care for school age children. This is equally available to children in care. Information is available on the Derby City Council website

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/childcare/information-for-parents/>

### **Children's Centres**

Derby has a number of children's centres in neighbourhoods across the city, details are on the Council website:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/parental-support/childrens-centres/>

They offer a range of services and activities for children, usually up to 5 years, and their families. This can be particularly helpful for adoptive or new foster carers, and can support the development of young children in care.

### **Special Educational Needs and disabled children**

Children in care who have special educational needs should already have an Education, Health and Care plan or equivalent prior to placement in Derby. Derby has a range of services for children with disabilities or SEN, some of which will be available to children in the care of other authorities and some of which may be available at a charge. Details are available on the website:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/special-education-needs-disabilities/>

Derby has a number of special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools. On making an application for a school place (see above), the child's educational needs must be identified and their assessment and plan shared. Further information is available from:

[SENDadmin@derby.gov.uk](mailto:SENDadmin@derby.gov.uk)

Guidance is also available from the Parent Partnership service: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/derby-city-parent-partnership/>

### **Health Services**

## Classification: OFFICIAL

All children and young people who live in Derby City have access to universal health services. These are provided by Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust and local General Practitioners.

Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust provides a range of health services for children and young people. All the staff working in our children and young people's services shares the same aim, which is to:

"With families and partner agencies, enable children and young people to achieve the best health outcomes they can, by promoting healthy lifestyles and providing early intervention for their health, wellbeing, and safeguarding needs."

It is important that all children are registered with a local GP prior to or immediately on placement in the city, unless their previous GP is still willing and able to provide cover in the city. The health needs of children in care are monitored by a Health Visitor or School nurse.

The Children in Care nursing team must also be notified by the Local Authority or previous Health provider when a child in care moves into the city; contact details are: Sinfin Health Centre, Arleston Lane, Derby DE24 3DS. Telephone 01332 888042

The Children in Care nursing team undertake review health assessments for children that are placed in Derby City. In line with national tariff found in the Department of Health's Payment by Results (PbR) Guidance for 2013/14 there is a charge for this service.

Specialist health services are available locally, including mental health provision through CAMHS. Where a child has known needs it is the responsibility of the previous provider to ensure continuation of, and where applicable funding for, these services prior to placement.

### **Youth Offending**

Derby City Youth Offending Service (YOS) works with young offenders aged between 10 and 17 who are the subject of Court Orders. The YOS also work on a voluntary basis with young people who have been identified as being at risk of offending and some who are subject of Youth Restorative Disposals. Where a child moving into the city is already involved with YOS, the previous service should liaise with Derby YOS in relation to management of the case.

Derby City Youth Offending Service can be contacted on 01332 6432444.

### **Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked Children**

Derby has a Local Safeguarding Children Board which has in place safeguarding procedures (jointly with Derbyshire), offers multi-agency training and ensures effective safeguarding practice across the city. Placements in the City comply with local procedures and where there are any concerns, placing social workers should make themselves familiar with these procedures:

<http://www.derbyscb.org.uk>

Where there is a safeguarding concern about a child in care placed in Derby, Derby Social Care service will undertake any S47 investigation required, in consultation with the child's social worker, until or unless it is agreed that the placing authority will take responsibility. This can be accessed through the First Contact Team:

During normal working days between 9am and 5pm on 01332 641172

Out of hours 01332 786968

Derby has a well-established, multi-agency approach to children who are vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. The strategy and guidance is available on the DSCB website, along with a risk assessment tool to be used where there are concerns about a child and CSE. Any child assessed as a medium or high risk should be referred for a local CSE multi-agency meeting by ringing 01332 717818 and any intelligence about potential perpetrators or other concerns about CSE should be reported to the Police as Operation Liberty using the form on the DSCB website.

## Classification: OFFICIAL

Where children go missing from placements in Derby the local procedure should be followed. Missing children are considered at a monthly panel and multi-agency responses reviewed to ensure appropriate plans are in place to reduce missing episodes and ensure children's safety.

### **Children in Care Council**

The Derby City Children in Care Council represents the views of Derby City children and young people in care and care leavers. The group meets on a monthly basis throughout the year and are involved in decision making and service development along with informing the Corporate Parenting Board. The group works alongside Derby City Council to try and make things better for the children and young people in care.

Currently, our Children in Care Council is only open to Derby City looked after children, although we are considering how to make the council accessible to other children and young people placed in Derby. The group is facilitated by The Children's Rights Service and can be contacted on 01332 869392.

### **General resources**

The Derby City Council website is also a useful resource for more information about general services and events in Derby – [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)

We hope this information proves to be a helpful resource for colleagues from outside Derby who are working with looked after children placed here.

We welcome any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Bunyan

Strategic Director of Children's Services



# The Pledge

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Derby City Council

**VOLUNTEERING** **MATTERS**

- 1** We will show you how to contact your Social Worker. We will tell you who to contact if things go wrong and what to do if you need urgent help.
  - 2** We will provide a safe place for you to live. We want you to know that you are safe, protected and valued and can trust those caring for you.
  - 3** We will encourage and support you to participate in wider opportunities to build your confidence so that you are able to make safe decisions for yourself.
  - 4** If you need someone to talk to, this includes at evenings and weekends, we will make sure you know who to call.
  - 5** We will respect you for who you are. We will help you to develop a strong sense of personal identity and maintain your cultural and religious beliefs.
  - 6** We will help you to access all the services you need to keep you healthy and safe.
  - 7** We will support you to get the most from your education and encourage you to reach all your goals and achieve your potential.
  - 8** We will help you to understand all of your rights and help you to join with other young people to share your views, concerns and aspirations.
  - 9** We will ensure your voice is at the heart of all decisions made about you and that you understand why and when meetings are held.
  - 10** We will join with you to celebrate your 18th birthday and ensure you are prepared for and supported into adulthood.
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