

**SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY
FOR
CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC)
AND
CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE (CEYP)
JANUARY 2021 – JANUARY 2024**

Purpose - to Update O&S on the delivery, achievements and next steps of the current sufficiency strategy

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(Responsibility for operational and strategic commissioning for children and families)



7 Agreed Priorities

1. Embed the accommodation and support pathway for CEYP
2. Improve services to support children - prevent children entering care
3. Increase in local fostering placements
4. Improve joint commissioning arrangements for complex placements
5. Increase the number of providers and residential provision within BCP
6. Develop the market to provide suitable local provision for complex teenagers
7. Improve the monitoring of placements

Embed the accommodation and support pathway for CEYP

What we wanted to achieve...

- Needs analysis of cohort accommodation needs
- Clear housing pathway process
- Accommodation choice
- Affordable
- Location choice across BCP
- Equable

What we have achieved

- ✓ Review of 17 /18yrs accommodation needs
- ✓ Re-design of the supported housing pathway
- ✓ Implementation of 'Housing Pathway Panel'
- ✓ Review of internal CSC policy in line with new unregulated legalisation

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- Multi agency approach from Housing and Children's Services in respect of available accommodation to meet need
- Young people have access to suitable accommodation within agreed timescales
- Accommodation is available across BCP, providing choice
- Increase of 18 supported units of accommodation for CEYP (was 12 now 30 / 150% increase)
- Ceased the use of semi-independent provision for 16yr olds in Yr 11 provision – acknowledging need for care rather than support.

Improve services to support children - prevent children entering care

What we wanted to achieve...

- Robust and consistent multi agency approach to support
- Innovative and creative solutions to support
- Early identification of whole family needs
- Reduce entries into care
- Embed a whole family approach

What we have achieved

- ✓ Multi Agency 'Edge of Care' (EOC) Panel launched
- ✓ Family Investment Fund secured
- ✓ Team Around the School / Navigator Mode implemented
- ✓ Family Hubs Development Review – Bid submitted Dec 2021
- ✓ Tavistock, Dorset and BCP submitted - reduce Parental Conflict

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- EOC Panel reviewed 62 cases of which only 12 yp came into care (16%) / 84% supported at home
- Commissioned 'Jamie's Farm' providing 'farming, family and therapy' (4 separate weeks / 25 young people accessed)
- POP Cards designed, produced and implemented into Schools – support mental health of young people
- Family Investment Funding disseminated to schools – access to counselling services

Increase in local fostering placements

What we wanted to achieve...

- Avoid CiC being placed 'Out of Borough'
- CiC are offered family based care within BCP
- A range of carers are available to meet all needs
- CiC have the choice to 'stay put' post 18yrs
- Further development of local capacity within the the South Central Independent Fostering Agency Framework

What we have achieved

- ✓ Permanency and Tracking Panel launched in January 2021
- ✓ In-House fostering households maintained at 190
- ✓ 95% occupancy of in-house placements
- ✓ DATA OF IFA PLACEMENTS
- ✓ Strategic lead on the re-tendering of the IFA Framework

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- 246 children in family based care – 55% of CiC population
- Permanency and Tracking Panel launched in January 2021
- Multi Agency Funding with Health secured for 10 CiC
- Successful approval of former Supported Lodgings Carers (21 households)
- 29% placed OOB in family based care / specialist education provision

Improve joint commissioning arrangements for complex placements

What we wanted to achieve...

- Develop a Multi Agency Task and Finish Group reviewing complex needs
- Consultation of 'Short Breaks' provision with families and young people / Single Short Breaks offer across BCP / Implementation of HAF Inclusion Programme
- Specialist Needs Housing Accommodation Group implemented
- CCG / CSC – complex need Task and Finish Group implemented

What we have achieved

- ✓ Continued to develop the Multi Agency Resource Panel (MARF)
- ✓ Alignment of Direct Payments (DP) hourly rates across BCP
- ✓ Implemented single point of access for all (DP) families
- ✓ Short Break Statement / (CHAD) Eligibility - finalised and launched
- ✓ Initial Health Assessment (IHA) – % increase for stat paperwork
- ✓ Re-design of Clinical Psychology Service for CiC – from April 2022

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- MARF identifies the timely intervention of health needs and the funding required to meet need – 10 CiC cases
- Direct Payment Families are aware of who to contact in terms of support package – reduction in delays for payments / services.
- Families and young people are aware of BCP thresholds for CHAD and Short Break offer available
- IHA improved completion of statutory paperwork within 5 working days (34% improvement) – resulting in timely identification of health needs for new into care.
- Single Clinical Psychology Service across BCP, from Early Help to CiC. Timely intervention for clinical support to child and carer.
- CCG / CSC considering the need for crisis accommodation and support.

Increase the number of providers and residential provision within BCP

What we wanted to achieve...

- Work with known providers to increase capacity within BCP
- Improve contract monitoring and standards
- Increase range of specialist / complex residential care

What we have achieved

- ✓ Block booking arrangement with two residential providers (7 beds)
- ✓ Two new registered providers
- ✓ Increase of 13 residential beds within BCP – 100% increase
- ✓ Return to face-to-face monitoring of accommodation provision – post COVID
- ✓ Commenced re-tendering of the IFA Framework

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- Children and young people have the opportunity to remain local to BCP
- More choice of accommodation provision within BCP
- Solo provision available in order to de-escalate situations
- Contract monitoring of provision has been re-implemented following reduced COVID restrictions – resulted in improved standard of accommodation
- New Learning Disability home (4 beds) now registered which will provide links to local education provision.
- 24 placed OOB in residential care = 5% of CiC population

Develop the market to provide suitable local provision for complex teenagers

What we wanted to achieve...

- Local Placements (where appropriate) and family based
- Consultation of 'Short Breaks' provision with families and young people / Single Short Breaks offer across BCP / Implementation of HAF Inclusion Programme
- Specialist Needs Housing Accommodation Group implemented
- Develop a Multi Agency Task and Finish Group reviewing complex needs

What we have achieved

- ✓ Solo residential provision developed
- ✓ Increase in supported accommodation for CEYP
- ✓ Development of Fostering Reliance Scheme for step down from residential placements
- ✓ Regional links with LA partners
- ✓ Direct engagement with Short Break families

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- Young People across BCP are afforded access to Short Breaks during school holidays
- Families with HAF entitlement can access healthy food and activity programme across BCP
- Complex young people have the opportunity to move back or remain in BCP within residential provision
- Young people have the opportunity where appropriate to step down from residential care into foster care within BCP
- Learning from regional development informs health and CSC partners on the development of complex residential provision
- Strong links with health colleagues on acute health needs (ASD / Autism)
- Families have had a voice in respect of Short Breaks

Improve the monitoring of placements

What we wanted to achieve...

- Improve the long term stability of placements
- CiC are healthy and emotionally resilient
- Implement Young Commissioners Programme
- Improve the quality of referrals for CiC or those entering care
- Develop outcomes based quality assurance framework

What we have achieved

- ✓ Placement stability increase
- ✓ IHA and RHA are monitored via Performance Surgery
- ✓ Review of commissioned health services
- ✓ Positive engagement with Youth Parliament
- ✓ Implemented referrals training and young people profiles
- ✓ Re-implement face to face monitoring of accommodation / service provision
- ✓ Continue to work with South Central Partners on Key Performance Indicator

Impact on Children and Young People Lived Experience

- Placement stability (long term) rising from 67% to currently 79%
- Initial health concerns are identified within statutory timescales and reviewed / monitored to ensure all health needs are met
- Once implemented (April 2022), clear pathway for young people and carers accessing clinical support to reduce escalation
- Commissioning and Youth Parliament secured services to meet identified priorities - increase in direct services for young people
- Monitoring of accommodation provision is robust and standards high ensuring corporate parent oversight and provider accountability.