

EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE

NAME OF TOPIC GROUP: Placement Stability, Children in Care Council

CHAIRMAN: Ben

DATE REPORT PUBLISHED: 22 June 2016

SCRUTINY OFFICER: Charles Lambert

DATE RESPONSE RETURNED: 26 August 2016

DATE OF SCRUTINY: 2 June 2016

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Richard Roberts

Recommendations:

e.g. To undertake a customer survey in April 2016

Executive Response:

e.g. To carry out the survey in April 2016

2.1 That the CLA, Adoption and Fostering social work teams and Brokerage will make 100% of the profiles for foster carers available to young people by the end of June 2016. (Conclusion 4.1 and 4.5)

The Children Looked After (CLA) Teams have been reminded of the importance of sharing foster carer profiles with young people during the introduction period (**June 2016 & Ongoing in Managers Meetings**). This question has also been added to the Placement Planning Meeting agenda to ensure this is checked and we can report on this in the future (**Revised Agenda will be introduced into the Social Work recording system by the end of September 2016**).

2.2 CLA & Adoption & Fostering Senior Managers will discuss with Leaving Care Senior Managers about the possibilities of introducing a mentoring & buddying system for young people. (Conclusion 4.2)

Feedback from the Leaving Care Senior Managers confirms that mentoring for young people is available within Specialist Services. Over the past year, 5 young people from CLA/Leaving Care service have requested a mentor and were supported by this service. This service is looking to expand over the next 6 months in order to provide further mentors to children in care and care leavers.

2.3 That a forum will be held at the July CHICC event where young people will be able to feed into the development of additional questions for the questionnaire given to

The forum was held at the Big Summer Event on 28 July 2016. Young people were shown a range of different profiles and asked

<p>foster carers that build improved foster carer profiles. (Conclusion 4.3)</p>	<p>to comment. Young people had a number of views of what they expect from a profile and that all should be receiving one. It was said that profiles help young people to feel less anxious about moving into a new placement. All comments were taken away and are being considered.</p>
<p>2.4 CLA Teams will ensure that young people are always asked whether there is an extended family member or significant person that they would want to support them in making their views and wishes known. (Conclusion 4.4)</p>	<p>This was raised at the CLA Development day (held at the end of June 2016) with CHICC members also present. This has also been discussed within CLA Managers Meetings in both East and West of the county (July & August 2016). This will also be added to the Placement Planning Meeting Agenda to ensure this question has been asked and we will be able to audit this in the future(Revised Agenda will be introduced into the Social Work recording system by the end of September 2016)..</p>
<p>Any other comments on the report or this scrutiny?</p> <p>Please could I thank the CHICC deputies for their in depth scrutiny of this vitally important subject and in particularly Ben's chairmanship, enabling a smooth but challenging session to take place. I would also like to thank officers for treating the matters raised, seriously and I think this piece of work will make a valuable contribution to improving placement stability for children in care.</p>	