

<b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE</b>	
<p><b>NAME OF TOPIC GROUP:</b> CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER</p> <p><b>CHAIRMAN:</b> JUDI BILLING</p> <p><b>SCRUTINY OFFICER:</b> CHARLES LAMBERT</p> <p><b>DATE OF SCRUTINY:</b> 17 JANUARY 2017</p> <p><b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER:</b> RICHARD ROBERTS</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>DATE REPORT PUBLISHED:</b> 13 FEBRUARY 2017</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>DATE RESPONSE DUE:</b> 13 APRIL 2017</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>DATE RESPONSE RETURNED:</b> 10 APRIL 2017</p>	
<b>Recommendations:</b> <i>e.g. To undertake a customer survey in xxxxx (month/year)</i> <i>(Note: All abbreviations used must be set out in full the first time they are used)</i>	<b>Executive Response:</b> <i>e.g. To carry out the survey in xxxxxx (month/year)</i> <i>(Note: All abbreviations used must be set out in full the first time they are used)</i>
<p>2.1 The Placement Stability Group (PSG) should start formal comparisons with other local authorities with good practice and discuss how this may be implemented in Hertfordshire, to increase placement stability. (Conc. 4.1)</p>	<p>The recommendation is being taken forward as part of our project planning workshop for the placement stability group on 25 April 2017. We have already taken the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Children’s Commissioner Office (CCO) [22 March 2017] who are undertaking an independent critical review of placement stability in England and using a range of sources of data that is not included in the existing DfE data sets. We have asked the CCO to provide Hertfordshire with a list of other local authorities who are comparable in relation to the specific demographics of our Children Looked After population.</p> <p>In addition we are approaching a number of well performing statistical neighbours to identify good practice models that would be transferable to Hertfordshire. This will be completed during Quarter 1 2017/18.</p>
<p>2.2 A full analysis of support and training for Foster Carers should be undertaken to make sure the offer is effective and increases placement stability. The training needs to</p>	<p>The analysis of support and training needs undertaken during 2016/17 has informed the learning and development needs for foster carers 2017/18 regarding placement stability. This analysis</p>

<p>be provided on a graded scale based on the needs of the Foster Carer and Young Person. (Conc. 4.2)</p>	<p>includes the more recent outcomes from an audit of foster carers' view of placement stability matters [January 2017]. This includes the comprehensive delivery of the ARC training for all foster carers. During 2017/18 this will be supported by 2 fostering social workers who will be trained to deliver and support the implementation of this model of practice.</p> <p>During 2017/18 the model of placement support for foster carers will include any bespoke learning and development needs that the foster carer requires to meet the needs of the child in their care.</p>
<p>2.3 Formal conversations need to take place between the Children Looked After (CLA) team and Fostering and Adoption team about achieving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) goals. Specific consideration needs to be given to reducing the targeted number of days for making first contact with the Young Person's social worker. This discussion needs to agree improved partnership working and goals for the benefit of Young People. (Conc. 4.3)</p>	<p>The placement stability group membership includes representation from children's services and CAMHS. The objectives set for this work stream now includes the significance of the SDQ scores as an indicator for placement instability and how we might improve our partnership to intervene earlier to prevent a placement move.</p> <p>The CAMHS transformation board leads on the improvement journey regarding the timeliness of CAMHS provision.</p>
<p>2.4 That a CLA profile is created by the social worker with the young person, generating their enthusiasms, talents and interests including a list of likes, dislikes. This will allow future foster carers to have a far more comprehensive understanding about the young person and their needs, to improve placement stability. (Conc. 4.4)</p>	<p>The recommendation is taken forward as part of our project planning for the placement stability group on 25 April 2017, but the plan is for this to be co-produced with the Children in Care Council (CHICC).</p> <p>The placement stability audit [January 2017] identified the key information that foster carers would like to know about the young person in advance of a new placement.</p> <p>In addition we also know from the CHICC the key information that young people feel is important to provide regarding their new placement.</p> <p>The Children's Participation Team will now be joining the PSG to</p>

**Item 3**  
**Appendix 2(a)**

	help inform the process by which this recommendation will be delivered.
Any other comments on the report or this scrutiny? None	

