

**SCRUTINY REMIT: CHILDREN'S SERVICES
YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE RETURNING TO BIRTH FAMILY**

OBJECTIVE:

To scrutinise the effectiveness of the strategy to support young people (YP) in care returning to their birth family.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. What number of returns breakdown and what is being done to prevent YP re-entering care?
2. What takes place in preparation for YP returning home (for both the young person and the birth family)?
3. How is the YP's voice taken into account before/during and after these moves?
4. How does the service ensure emotional and educational stability for those who return to their birth family?

BACKGROUND:

Reducing the numbers of young people in care is a priority for Children's Services and one aspect of achieving this is through re-unification. Re-unification is the process of a young person in care returning to their birth family.

Returning home is part of the 2017/18 strategy for Children's Services. This activity is labelled as Planning for Re-unification, whereby a template of what this will be is created with young people and staff which is discussed with CLA and parents/carers prior to care entry and at intervals during care duration, and whilst preparing to leave care.

OUTCOME/S:

That CHICC members are secure of the actions Children's Services are taking to support a successful return to the birth family and decrease the numbers of young people in care through return to birth family

CONSTRAINTS:

- Will only include discussions on return and reducing number of young people in care
- Will not discuss individual cases

RISK/S:

Mitigation is in place to lessen the impact on a young person if the return fails; and to address the consequence for Children's Services if it is unable to reduce the numbers of young people in care

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WITNESSES	EVIDENCE
Marion Ingram	Deputies
Sarah Baker	Care Leavers
Jackie Clements	
Family Safeguarding lead	
<i>CLA leader form within a school</i>	

METHOD: 1/2 day Topic Group **DATE/S:** OCTOBER 2017

MEMBERSHIP:

- 7 x CHICC members

SUPPORT:

Scrutiny Officer: Charles Lambert

Lead Officer/s: Marion Ingram

Democratic Services Officer:

HCC Priorities for Action: how this item helps deliver the Priorities *delete as appropriate*

1. Opportunity To Thrive ✓
2. Opportunity To Prosper ✓
3. Opportunity To Be Healthy And Safe ✓
4. Opportunity To Take Part ✓

CfPS ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES: *delete as appropriate*

1. Transparent – opening up data, information and governance ✓
2. Inclusive – listening, understanding and changing ✓
3. Accountable – demonstrating credibility ✓