

DRAFT - Corporate Parenting Operational Plan

Key: ALC = Arts, Leisure & Culture Workstream
 ETE = Education, Training & Employment Workstream
 H = Health Workstream
 P = Participation Workstream
 PA = Placements & Accommodation Workstream
 CL = Care Leavers Workstream

PRIORITY 1 – OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RESPECTED AND INVOLVED

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress/Impact	RAG Rating
1.1 - Ensure Looked After Children and Care Leavers are aware of their entitlements and know where to access information, how to seek advice and support and understand how to make a complaint							
1.1a	Ensure staff have the knowledge, skills and commitment to engage and listen to Looked After Children and Care Leavers in effective ways appropriate to their age, ability and interests	Providing a variety of ways for children and young people to express their views including independent advocacy and MOMO Need to consider children with disabilities.	All information is on the Gateshead Council website. Printed information is available for all young people on request. Young people have access to MOMO	Participation Care Leavers	Safe Recruitment of Staff Continued promotion of advocacy with young people.	Care Leavers App under development	
1.1b	Ensure we maximise the involvement of Looked After Children and Care Leavers in decisions made that affect them and provide feedback on any actions that are/are not taken as a result	Looked After children are visited at least every 6 weeks (unless otherwise agreed as part of a permanence plan) and seen alone. Contact with Care Leavers is made at least every 8 weeks unless otherwise agreed Looked After Children are active participants in their reviews and meet the Independent Reviewing Officer regularly and before each upcoming review	Looked After Children and Care Leavers engage in structured interviews at key points to evidence how they feel about the services they receive	Participation Care Leavers	We need to do more to ensure Looked After Children and Care Leavers maximise their take up of rights and entitlements through more accessible information available in a range of formats including e-materials Improve on evidencing how we have responded to a young person's views and the difference this has made. Annual Surveys for 2019 are outstanding – to be distributed to working groups for consideration of relevant questions asap.	Findings from key interviews to be systematically collected, collated and reported back to CPP to inform Service development. <i>*May need to add performance measures (for example, number of children being visited etc) from dashboard</i>	
1.1c	Ensure we celebrate the achievements of all of our Looked After Children and Care Leavers			Participation Education, Training & Employment Care Leavers	Achievement award ceremony to be arranged for 2021/2022		
1.1d	Ensure young people, children with disabilities and care leavers can		Regional contract in place for the Independent Visitors'	Participation	Continue to promote the IVS with professionals and young people		

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	have access to an independent visitor		Service	Care Leavers	Review of the service to be undertaken on an annual basis		
1.2 – Have a strong and active Children in Care Council (One Voice) which is able to help influence and shape the delivery of services through direct access to Senior Officers of Children's Services							
1.2a	Ensure the Council and its partners support One Voice and our wider Children in Care Council activities and deliver against the commitments made in our Care Pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter	<p>Regular meetings of One Voice</p> <p>Attendance at One Voice by Senior Officers</p> <p>Attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Committee by One Voice members</p> <p>Looked After Children and Care Leavers are regularly involved in the recruitment and interview process for Children's Social Care staff</p>	<p>Continue to increase the membership of One Voice.</p> <p>Continue to develop our approach to participation and engagement; raising awareness and building capacity across services so that we can hear and respond to the voices and views of children and young people.</p>	Participation	<p>Ensure that all Looked After Children and carers are aware of the purpose and function of the group</p> <p>Celebration of Achievement Awards to be used by One Voice to encourage other young people to become involved and attend.</p> <p>Work to be done with Foster Carers to encourage them to support young people to attend.</p>		

PRIORITY 2 – OUR PLACEMENTS ARE SAFE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress/Impact	RAG Rating
2.1 – We will ensure that we have a range of placements available for our children and young people and that there will be minimum placement moves for any Looked After Child							
2.1a	Implement a sufficiency strategy to help deliver improved options for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	<p>Recruitment and retention of foster carers.</p> <p>Work with Commissioning to source any external placement requests</p> <p>Social workers or Managers visit placements, including residential, before moving children to ensure the quality of the service they offer.</p> <p>Current engagement taking place with local IFA providers to support the development of specifications.</p>	<p>The Fostering Placements Team was established in December 2019 comprising of 2 social workers and dedicated Business Support to ensure continuity in work around placement searches and identification.</p> <p>Recruitment campaign for Foster Carers began in January 2020 targeted for sibling groups which used real life stories from existing foster carers.</p> <p>NE12 regional framework has been in place since February 2018 which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-16 and post-16 placements in Dept for Education registered, independent special schools and colleges, 52 	Placements & Accom.	<p>Expand the remit of the Fostering Placements Team.</p> <p>Introduction of Placements Hub with workers from Fostering Service and Commissioning working closely together.</p> <p>Review Fostering Service structure with a view to developing separate assessment and support teams.</p> <p>Continue to review and adapt the Fostering recruitment campaign throughout 2021/22 – to include targeted recruitment for respite foster carers, long term foster carers and those able to take sibling groups.</p>	Placements Hub began 1 st September 2021.	

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			<p>week residential, Termly boarder, Weekly boarder and Day placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted registered residential short breaks for children and young people Ofsted registered Residential Children's Home placements <p>NE7 regional IFA framework in place from October 2019. Update report presented from Commissioning to SMT, GMT, Portfolio Holders, CSCMT September 2020.</p>				
2.1b	Placement Changes are kept to a minimum	Maximise permanency for children in care so as to ensure that where possible and appropriate they are provided with stable placements via adoption or long term/permanent fostering.	<p>Performance reports will demonstrate placement stability, permanence planning and highlight areas for improvement</p> <p>At the point of placement a matching process is in place to minimise placement moves.</p>	Placements & Accom.	Improve links with Early Permanence Panel and Resource Panel	<i>Link to appropriate Performance data including Out of Borough, In-House, IFA, 3+ placement moves, Call-off data</i>	
2.1c	Ensure children's plans are robust with a focus on permanency	<p>Drift is avoided by having a robust permanency planning process</p> <p>A permanency planning process ensures that early decisions are made and any drift is avoided.</p>		<p>Participation – linking in with IRO teams</p> <p>Placements & Accom.</p>			
2.1d	Ensure Looked After Children and Care Leavers have a variety of ways to express any concerns they have about their placement and that these are acted on promptly	<p>Placements are visited by social workers every 6 weeks unless otherwise agreed as part of a permanence plan)</p> <p>A clear escalation process is in place to ensure the Independent Reviewing Officers can bring concerns about a placement to the attention of a Manager in a timely manner.</p> <p>Independent advocacy is available to all young people</p> <p>Concerns and complaints are responded to promptly.</p>		Participation – linking in with Jackie Ingram & Alison Routledge (complaints)			
2.1e	Increase Local Authority Children's Home capacity	Increased capacity will mean that young people placed in expensive out of borough residential placements can be brought back to the Gateshead borough.	Identification of young people and children in external residential provisions to enable matching within in-house homes.	Placements & Accom.	Linking in with Property Services to identify and view potential properties.	New Children's Homes (Longside and Kite's Rise) now open.	

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		Reduced expenditure on external residential placements.					
2.1f	Improve links with The Gateshead Housing Company	Coordinate with colleagues in housing to ensure that Care Leavers are able to access appropriate accommodation such as taster flats within good timescales. Work with Housing to support Care Leavers in their own accommodation to ensure that they are able to secure their own tenancies.	Housing Supported Accommodation and Leaving Care Teams work together to identify and support Care Leavers in their own accommodation. Housing Supported Accommodation representatives attend SAILS Panel on a regular basis to provide updates on young people and progressions to their own tenancies from taster flats.	Placements & Accom.	Newly appointed Housing Support Officers to observe SAILS Panel.	Taster flats available through the housing company through the SAILS model.	
2.1g	Increase the supported accommodation available to Care Leavers	SAILS Model in place from July 2018.		Placements & Accom. Care Leavers	Scoping of services taking place in line with strategic Homelessness Strategy development. SAILS and 18+ supported accommodation services.	Increase in 5 dispersed properties available through SAILS panel from Jan 2021.	

PRIORITY 3 – POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND IDENTITY

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress/Impact	RAG Rating
3.1 – Children and Young People are supported to maintain, build and sustain positive relationships with others including their birth families, siblings, carers and their peers							
3.1a	Children and Young People (where appropriate) will be enabled to sustain family relationships with parents, siblings and extended family in a safe and positive way	Extended family are always considered as part of the planning process and children are placed with extended family when it is safe to do so. Regional IFA framework in place and regularly reviewed		Care Leavers Participation Placement & Accom.	Increase numbers of local, available placements in order for young people to maintain links and retain relationships. Looking to go out to tender on Regional IFA framework with a start date of October 2019. Current engagement taking place with local IFA providers to support the development of the specifications.	Family Time Life Story Work NE7 regional contract in place from October 2019.	
3.1b	Children and Care Leavers will have opportunities to participate in a range of activities, including arts and cultural events to support with independence.	A variety of activities are provided throughout the year for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.	MAX and GatesheadGO cards are provided to young people and foster carers to support visits to a range of cultural venues and leisure facilities.	Arts, Leisure & Culture	Ensure young people placed at distance have equivalent access to leisure and cultural activities as their peers.		

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					Improve the offer from our partners in leisure, arts and culture to enable Care Leavers to access facilities in the same way as Looked After Children can.		
3.1c	Children and young people will be encouraged and have opportunities to develop strong peer relationships	Where possible, placements are local and friendships are encouraged. Wherever possible, children and young people will remain in the same school or education provision.		Participation Arts, Leisure & Culture			
3.2 – Children and Young People know who they are, why they are in care and understand their heritage. They feel valued by others and their individual needs are understood and met.							
3.2a	Children will understand why they are in care and life story work will be undertaken to support them and help them make sense of their need to be looked after.	Continue to invest in Life Story work to reflect the Story of the Child and help them to understand their experiences and background.		Participation with LAC & therapeutic social work staff	Obtain as much information as possible from parents, birth family and friends at the earliest stage of Children's Services' involvement.		
3.2b	We will value all young people and their individual needs arising from race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or disability will be understood.	At the point of placement the matching process in place will provide support to ensure close cultural links are maintained, especially where there is not the same cultural match.		Placements & Accom.			
3.2c	Children and young people will have access to specialist support, including psychological support and Life Story worker if required to ensure needs are met.	Ensure children received appropriate advice and access to health services on issues of identity.		Health Placements & Accom. Education, Training & Employment	Advice and signposting available via CNTW consultation process. Service is currently under review.	Children and young people have been appropriately referred to specialist service at Tavistock re gender issues and support.	

PRIORITY 4 – OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE SUPPORTED TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress/Impact	RAG Rating
4.1 – Our children and young people will be encouraged and supported to lead healthy and active lifestyles. They will have access to specialist services, including those associated with additional needs or disability							
4.1a	The health needs of children and young people will be assessed and reviewed in a timely way	All young people coming into care will have a health assessment with a medical practitioner. This will be reviewed 6 monthly for children under 5 years old and annually for children aged 5-18 years old.	<p>Ensure timeframes for IHA and RHAs are achieved.</p> <p>Blended version of virtual health assessments and face to face occurring during Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Timescales for completion of IHA and RHAs are reported on the CCG quarterly dashboard and monitored on a monthly basis with performance monitoring tool.</p> <p>Assessment of mental health needs are undertaken.</p>	Health	<p>Monitoring mechanisms are in place and targets 95% are met.</p> <p>Action plan requested for IHA improvement.</p> <p>Return to face to face health assessments. Monitor compliance with statutory timeframes via score card.</p> <p>Awaiting 2020-21 result from SDQ assessment from Local Authority.</p>	<p>IHAs 70% completion at end of December 2020 64.3% completion at end of year 94.7% Q1 2021/22</p> <p>RHAs 97% completion at end of December 98% completion at end of year 97% Q1 2021/22</p> <p>Q1 2021/22: IHA 70% & RHA 88.5%</p> <p>SDQs identified level of need in 2019-20 81% coverage identified 58% were borderline or in need of support. Provisional 20/21 data shows improvement in overall score and reduction in the number of LAC identified as borderline/in need of support</p>	<div style="background-color: red; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: green; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: yellow; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
4.1b	Where required, children and young people will have access to specialist health services in a timely way	<p>Ensure good access to health services and advice is available to Looked after Children and Care Leavers.</p> <p>Children and young people have their need for additional emotional support recognised and addressed and are supported in achieving emotional stability, resilience and self-confidence.</p>	<p>Identify in Care Plans and Pathway Plans what support may help a child or young person's emotional wellbeing and provide opportunities to facilitate this e.g. sport, hobbies, musical instruments.</p> <p>Build the skills and experiences within our own professional networks to support children and young people's emotional stability and identify the times and challenges when more support is required.</p> <p>Responsive access to a range of counselling and therapies, if necessary, according to needs to ensure proactive support as opposed to 'reactive' treatment.</p> <p>Strengthen assessment of mental health needs on entering care.</p>	Health	<p>Focus on mental health and transition</p> <p>To continue scoping and strengthening the mental health and emotional wellbeing (SCIE) for children and young people</p> <p>Mental Health workstream to merge with main Health workstream.</p> <p>New residential model of mental health support is being developed.</p> <p>Strengthen provision of support for emotional and mental health needs at local level and ensure children placed at distance receive the service they require.</p> <p>Scoping of the issue of access to dental services to be undertaken and data to be shared with LACHT.</p> <p>Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) needs for LAC being fed into service review.</p> <p>Return to face to face access to health services including dental. Monitor compliance with statutory timeframes</p>	<p>Draft SCIE Plan currently under consultation</p> <p>Covid has impacted on face to face access to some health services: Mental Health – CNTW CYPS continue to offer virtual appointments and face to face when indicated. Consultation sessions continue to be available to offer support, advice and signpost and have developed a more flexible approach. From Sept 2021 – return to face to face appointments. Dental – some young people may not have seen a dentist as services have been greatly interrupted. Advice on accessing dental services given to Local Authority for carers. There is a national push to return to full services. From Sept 2021 – routine dental appointments should now be accessible to LAC.</p> <p>Sept 2021 – Designated Doctor and Nurse for LAC are engaged with SALT review, raising the needs of LAC.</p>	<div style="background-color: yellow; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>

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					via score card.		
4.1c	Children and young people will be supported to lead healthy lifestyles and understand the risks of alcohol, substance misuse and sexual exploitation.	<p>Improve the health offer to Care Leavers.</p> <p>Give better recognition to the link between health, school, placement and family and an individual's emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve support and advice to reduce unplanned pregnancies and the number of babies of care leavers coming into the care system.</p>	<p>Leaving Care drop-in at Jigsaw set up to occur on a monthly basis – this will include personal assistants, sexual health, Platform, LAC Health team, Housing and Children's Rights Officer.</p> <p>All girls at 15 years old have a consultation with sexual health advisor, following teenage pregnancy audit.</p> <p>Dataset has been amended to focus on lifestyle issues.</p>	Health Care Leavers	<p>Focus on sexual health and pregnancy</p> <p>Sexual Health Support consultation survey to be launched by end of July 2021.</p> <p>Improve communication systems and access for foster carers to relevant information and training.</p> <p>Continued work to be done on lifestyle issues as well as looking at strengthening the collection of data in this area.</p>	<p>Teenage pregnancy audit completed. Further research undertaken which proposed a focussed piece of work to further develop sexual health support.</p> <p>GAP analysis being undertaken as of Sept 2021.</p> <p>Variety of health national circulars have been shared with foster carers and residential social workers.</p> <p>Dataset amended.</p>	
4.1d	Develop clear actions to ensure health outcome targets are met for Looked After Children	All care leavers will receive a health passport which is a comprehensive summary of their health history and support for adulthood.	<p>Process in place within LAC Health Team for providing Leaving Care health summaries with training for foster carers arranged by Workforce Development.</p> <p>Collecting views of Care Leavers on their health needs and views on health service provision.</p>	Health	<p>Explore opportunity to measure Care Leavers' health needs.</p> <p>Project commenced to seek Care Leavers' views on health services and support.</p>	<p>Project previously stalled due to Covid, but sessions now in diary to complete this with video expected at end of May 2021. Planning meeting with young people to take place 28.07.21 and Video launch & Panel event to take place on 15.09.2021..</p>	
4.1e	We will improve the link with Learning Disabilities and Transitions Services	Earlier identification of Learning Disabilities and Pathways Post-18	Improving coding in GP records of LAC with Learning Disability diagnoses.	Health	CCG are planning a joint audit of all safeguarding coding.	Improvements in the system are being reported.	

PRIORITY 5 – OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO REACH THEIR EDUCATIONAL, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING POTENTIAL

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
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Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
5.1 – We will support all Looked After Children to attend an appropriate education resource that helps them achieve their potential							
5.1a	Ensure that all children have an effective, high quality personal education plan (PEP)	<p>Virtual School will share a revised Covid PEP with all school and providers.</p> <p>Ensure that 100% of Looked After Children have a high quality PEP.</p> <p>Post-16 PEP process has been revised and implemented with meetings in schools and colleges to encourage providers to complete them independently.</p>	<p>Continue to increase attendance by Virtual School staff at PEP reviews where appropriate.</p> <p>Transitions work has improved between phases through the use of a newly produced transition document and high quality PEP.</p>	Education, Training & Employment	<p>Increase the percentage of completed and returned PEPs for post-16 year olds.</p> <p>To produce a more appropriate PEP document for those pupils who are in employment or training.</p> <p>Original PEP to be reintroduced with Virtual School staff continuing to attend where appropriate.</p> <p>Focus on quality of documentation to increase.</p>	<p>Following the roll out of the new Covid PEP some schools chose to continue with the original process so return was mixed.</p> <p>Better than expected percentage of reviews taking place, particularly out of borough.</p> <p>Virtual school members attending more reviews.</p> <p>The number of PEP returns has significantly increased following the revised process and schools and colleges are positively engaging with the process.</p>	Yellow
5.1b	Track and monitor children's attainment and progress and respond according to individual or group need.	The Virtual Head has effective monitoring and tracking systems to evaluate progress and achievement and plan interventions to address emerging themes.	Children and young people's academic progress and attainment is analysed and monitored via their Looked After Reviews and PEP meetings.	Education, Training & Employment			Red
5.1c	Raise awareness and train partners on the unique needs of Looked After Children	<p>Training including statutory support to designated teachers is delivered to a range of partners including foster carers and social workers. This includes topics on what works to support children's education.</p> <p>Looked After Children will be prioritised for careers advice, training and apprenticeships and career opportunities.</p>		Education, Training & Employment	<p>Work with all Directorates within the Council to improve the apprenticeship offer for young people.</p> <p>To offer training to foster carers to inform them of post-16 options, the support available and how they can support young people regarding their post-16 choices.</p>		Yellow
5.1d	Ensure the multi-agency education, employment and training panel (EET) brings together expertise and resources to support Looked After Children.	Looked After Children will have access to work experience opportunities and shadowing days both within the Council and with partner agencies.	The EET panel will monitor the progress and create opportunities for young people entering further education, employment and training.	Education, Training & Employment Care Leavers	To link with the EET team to monitor those young people who are NEET.		Yellow
5.1e	Keep school moves to a minimum and where moves are necessary, they are carefully planned and the most appropriate education provision is secured.			Education, Training & Employment			Red
5.1f	Reduce school exclusions and work with school professionals to support them in keeping children and young people at school.			Education, Training & Employment			Red

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
5.1g	Improve the opportunities for alternative provision within the locality			Education, Training & Employment Placements & Accom.			
5.2 – We will support and encourage all Care Leavers to attend education, employment or training							
5.2a	Raise awareness and train partners on the unique needs of Care Leavers	<p>Training including statutory support to designated teachers is delivered to a range of partners including foster carers and social workers. This includes topics on what works to support children's education.</p> <p>Care Leavers will have access to work experience opportunities and shadowing days both within the Council and with partner agencies.</p> <p>Care Leavers will be prioritised for careers advice, training and apprenticeships and career opportunities.</p>	<p>Develop a process to ensure that all post 16 young people have a written career plan.</p> <p>Meeting to be planned for school careers advisers and other partners.</p> <p>IAG and Virtual School now working more closely and services are beginning to develop better working relationships.</p> <p>Improve coordination between schools and EET.</p> <p>Every care experienced child should have a careers advisor.</p>	Care Leavers	<p>Improve the offer to Care Leavers aged 16-25 years old.</p> <p>Support the development of work experience and shadowing opportunities within the Council.</p> <p>Work with all Directorates within the Council to improve the apprenticeship offer for Care Leavers.</p> <p>To offer training to foster carers to inform them of post-16 options, the support available and how they can support young people regarding their post-16 choices.</p> <p>Virtual school to attend next Gateshead Network for Careers Advisors to explore what career plans are already in existence and try to coordinate the advice given between different services.</p> <p>Career plan to be developed that could be included in the final Year 11 PEP so that possible destinations can be recorded, bringing together all relevant services involved in careers advice.</p>	Care Leavers aged 16-18 years old have the opportunity to work 1:1 with a job coach.	
5.2b	Ensure the multi-agency education, employment and training panel (EET) brings together expertise and resources to support Care Leavers.	Ensure the consistency of engagement of Post 16 young people with EET and to improve attendance.	<p>The EET panel will monitor the progress and create opportunities for young people entering further education, employment and training.</p> <p>EET Panel to continue to monitor NEET, in particular those young people who are long term NEET.</p> <p>A 'Whole Council' approach to the provision of opportunities for care leavers to be promoted.</p>	Care Leavers Education, Training & Employment	<p>To link with the EET team to monitor those young people who are NEET.</p> <p>Links with social workers to improve so that timely information can be gathered.</p> <p>Process flow chart to be created by IAG regarding EET support available for care experienced children, including those OOB.</p>	<p>IAG teams have reported that more young people are being reached but there is a mixed picture of where young people are at due to Covid.</p> <p>Covid has impacted on current EET figures. NEET figures are particularly high at present due to young people disengaging from education and job losses. Links have been made with the Care Leavers' Covenant to explore the benefits of membership and EET opportunities to care leavers through successful partnerships.</p>	

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating

PRIORITY 6 – OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING INTO ADULTHOOD WILL BE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IN LIFE

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
6.1 – Our Young People are supported into adulthood in a seamless manner and provided with progressive and ongoing interventions							
6.1a	Young people enter adulthood in a planned way, with a home to live in, the skills to look after themselves and the ability to earn a living.	<p>A Personal Advisor will be allocated to eligible young people at the age of 16 who will work with the allocated social worker until the young person is 18.</p> <p>The Personal Advisor will remain involved until the young person reaches the age of 25 and will continue to offer support until the age of 25.</p> <p>Increase the accommodation offer and options for young people leaving Care.</p> <p>Increase the contribution from our young people into their planning.</p>	<p>Begin preparation for independence at an earlier stage and for this to be built upon well before plans for moving are finalised.</p> <p>Improve the quality of our pathway planning through having a quality assurance auditing process.</p> <p>Develop a multi-agency Care Leavers panel to monitor the progress of Care Leavers' accommodation plans and identify any themes and gaps with the intention of improving service delivery and strengthening multi-agency working.</p>	Care Leavers	<p>Further development of the SAILS provision including those who don't directly meet the current threshold as well as providers available to offer placements that support CCG registered activities.</p> <p>Review of provision to take place at the 12 month point to identify gaps and future needs.</p> <p>Improve partnership consultation and give young people a voice in relation to the dimensions of their Pathway Plans.</p> <p>Care Leavers' consultation group to continue to meet and membership to be increased.</p>	<p>SAILS (Supported and Independent Living Service) Pathway established in Summer 2018. Young people are referred to the pathway and given the opportunity to be needs assessed as an outreach client of to enter a fully supported residential assessment centre for a period of 56 days. A multi-agency panel reviews their assessment and recommends an outcome for their next housing need. Contracts established with providers offer a range of housing options from 24 hour supported living to semi-independent living and fully independent taster flats with a view to having their own tenancy.</p> <p>Consultation with Care Leavers is being developed to inform practice. Health & Housing representatives attended Care Leavers' meeting on 13.05.21 and young people were able to ask questions about accommodation issues and mental health.</p> <p>Consultation with Care Leavers has been concluded in relation to service delivery during the pandemic. Feedback was positive with most advising that they enjoyed more regular telephone and text contact with their PAs and felt they got to know them better.</p>	
6.1b	Utilise the Transitions Team to support the planning for young people from the age of 16 who may be eligible for support from Adult Services.	<p>The Pathway Plan will give clear expectations and identify the people responsible to help young people prepare for adulthood and have the life skills to achieve a smooth transition into independence.</p> <p>Improve the transfer to the Leaving Care Team and transition to independence to ensure a smooth transition from LAC to care leaver.</p>	Consult with young people regarding their transition to the Leaving Care Team, accommodation options and the SAILS Panel process.	Care Leavers	Young people to be encouraged to attend their Pathway Plan reviews and participate in planning to strengthen their voices.	Small Care Leaver consultation group took place regarding their transfer to the Leaving care Team and transition to independence. Findings have been fed into the team development plan for further work.	

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
6.1c	Ensure entitlements are made clear to Care Leavers	Care Leavers will be aware of their entitlements Promotion of the Care Leavers' app across the service with workers and young people.		Care Leavers	Consult with larger group of Care Leavers around current knowledge and access to information	A small group of care leavers has been consulted regarding their entitlements as care leavers. They were aware of the Care Leavers' app and felt they had a good understanding of their entitlements.	Yellow
6.1d	Ensure all necessary information has been obtained for young people in a timely way e.g. birth certificate, NI number, bank account and health passport.	Care Leavers have access to their information and are able to use this for a range of purposes, such as opening bank accounts, accessing services, college, apprenticeship or employment.	Social workers and Personal Advisors to work with foster carers and/or residential staff to ensure information has been obtained in a timely fashion.	Care Leavers			Red

PRIORITY 7 – IMPROVE THE ROLE OF THE CORPORATE PARENT

How we will deliver our priority:

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
7.1 – Continue to improve outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers via the further implementation of a Corporate Parenting and Partnership approach to the development and delivery of services							
7.1a	Ensure that at the core of everything we do is our understanding of our responsibility as a Corporate Parent.	Listen to what young people are saying and use what we learn to improve Services and outcomes.	There needs to be an increase in the sense of Corporate responsibility across all statutory agencies in the support for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Raise awareness with all new staff employed with Gateshead Council with regards to their corporate parenting responsibilities.				Red
7.1b	Elected members and council officers will take a lead role in raising awareness of the needs of children in care and Care Leavers with all Council departments and partner agencies.	Attendance at the quarterly meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Training to be provided for elected members. Regular updates to Senior Officers within the council	Continue to develop the multi-agency approach to Corporate Parenting to become more effective in the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan.			Directors of Services have made pledges relating to their role as Corporate Parents.	Yellow
7.1c	Promote the role of elected members as Corporate Parents and ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place by the Council to enable all members to	Ensure Senior Offices act on their pledges.				Workshops with senior leaders across the Council have taken place, delivered by young people.	Yellow

Ref	Key Action	What will we do? (Required Outcomes)	How We Will Achieve This	Workstream Involved	Actions	Milestones/Progress	RAG Rating
	fulfil their statutory responsibilities in this area.						