

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Children's Services post ILACS update and Covid

Richard Hancock

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CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

- Very best start in life where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop
- Aspiration and hope through learning and moving with confidence from childhood to adulthood
- Resilient families and supportive networks to protect and grow our young people



SERVICE OBJECTIVES


- Children and families at the heart of our services, built on a *new relationship of doing with, not to*
- *Wellbeing, prevention and early intervention* so families are able to thrive and grow
- Support in a crisis to help keep children with families through *behaviour change and supporting families to be in control*
- Responsive *evidence led* system, delivering high quality *place based* services
- Best possible *asset and strengths based* support for children in our care, care leavers and those with specialist needs
- Sustainable and effective services through *new investment and resourcing models*



NB - The text in italics links the service objectives to the public service reform principles outlined in the Corporate Plan

EARLY HELP

- EH Strategy launched and action plan and priorities in place.
- ***We have develop model of core multi-disciplinary EH service in each neighbourhood*** - Working re co-location in the four Children's Centres - blended offer of rotas of home working and office base.
- Parenting Strategy launched
- Young Carers Review completed.

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- NB - The projects in ***bold italics*** are those currently being led by the 7 Looked After Sustainability Projects 'task and finish' group

EARLY HELP (CONT.)

- ***New Family Support Service*** - launched Sept 2020 – 7 day working.
- Early Help Assessment (EHA) and Signs of Safety (SOS) rolled out to all partners – still working to embed.
- Early Help module in ICS to be launched October .
- ***Complete roll out of Team Around the School (TAS) to all remaining schools, plus PVI and colleges. 84 schools as of Sept 2020.***
- Increase take up of Free Entitlement Funding (FEF). monitoring due to COVID currently at 82%.
- ***Expand capacity of Family Group Conferencing service moving further up-stream*** - completed summer 2020.



SAFEGUARDING & FRONT DOOR

- *Duty & locality teams restructure (from MASH / duty & locality / LAC to MASH / locality / LAC) – completed 7th Sept.*
- Education representation in place.
- Complex safeguarding team launched.
- Co-location planning underway, but timescales unclear due to Covid
- More streamlined PLO and care planning / proceedings - new PLO manager appointed.
- ISCAN service review (Health, CSC and Education) completed and objectives agreed on multi agency basis – next steps/options paper being worked up Sept/Oct.
- Review of contact/family time arrangements completed – proposed to move away from a fixed point towards a community and district based model.



Children Looked After (Cared for Children), and Care Leavers

- High cost placements action plan- all placements now reviewed and RAG rated.
- ***Edge of Care to expand into wider support service – Family Intervention Service now aligned and management integrated.***
- ***Positive Futures- develop residential respite / short break and assessment service – some delay due to purchase falling through.***
- ***Fostering action plan – refresh offer incl. payments, training and support – A comprehensive fostering action plan is in place and is being implemented. The review of the fostering service has been completed – “Foster Care offer” paper to Board November 2020.***



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CARED FOR CHILDREN), AND CARE LEAVERS (CONT.)

- Mocking Bird Programme / Fostering Network. A options paper outline a GM collaboration to implementing Mockingbird has been completed and agreed by GM AD's progress delayed due to COVID.
- Corporate Parenting action plan - . Action plan signed off by Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and forward plan agreed – regular reporting to CPB.
- Leaving care action plan - Signed off by CPB and reported under forward plan
- 18+ care leaver accommodation - Significant delays to securing additional supported accommodation – plans now in place for an additional 17 properties – 11 now delivered.
- ***Placements Sufficiency Action Plan / Improve care/permanence planning – including commissioning for quality, QA and improved contract management - QA Framework signed off in March and piloted to July for 16+ places; evaluation being completed. IPAs in place for all social care placements.***



QUALITY ASSURANCE

- CSC - Quality Assurance Framework – new QA framework includes SoS – completed August 2020 – needs to be fully embedded.
- Audit Framework – revised in line with Signs of Safety - as above
- Close the loop – better embed learning from practice audits, thematic audits and case reviews. Audit process changed – August, to shift to operational team/service managers with fewer better quality audits to begin to embed case oversight by teams – learning loop requires further work.
- Independent Reviewing Officers / Chairs – improve timeliness, challenge, quality and impact - ICPCs and CLA reviews have improved in timeliness from May onwards.



CROSS CUTTING ENABLERS

- Integrated Children's System Upgrade – planned for Oct/Nov 2020.
- Recruitment and retention - Increased agency use since changes to agency rates in Feb – primarily in Looked After – Perm appointments should reduce this in Oct – Dec.
- Skills and training – Covid19 impact has required a major channel shift in how training & development is provided, it has been necessary to move from the traditional Face to Face delivery to a safer more digital approach.
- Further integrated working with local CAMHS services. Single point of access for Health Young Minds aligned to Early Help Access Point and MASH implemented July 2020 - work ongoing for co-location of MASH/ SPOE / EHAP – ambition to completed by December 2020.



COMPLETED – INCLUDES:

- LISTENing – co-production framework for children and families – agreed and implemented.
- ILACS action plan – standalone action plan monitored from July 2018 to March 2019 – outstanding actions at March 2019 dropped into individual service plans.
- SEND - Local Offer launched.
- Care Leaver Local Offer launched.
- EH Website launched.



COVID NEW WAYS OF WORKING ACROSS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- In COVID, delivering services to children and families has required us to work very differently and creatively whilst ensuring that our statutory responsibilities are not compromised.



VISITS AND ASSESSMENT

- Face to face visits were initially reduced to virtual visits where possible but have continued throughout the pandemic.
- Risk assessments were undertaken where face to face visits required.
- New procedures developed.
- PPE provided.
- Changes to Contact/Family Time.
- Easement of regulations supported this approach.
- Continue to review our approach with consideration to national guidance and public health advice.
- Easement of regulation is no longer in place.
- Face to face visits are now expected although they continue to be risk assessed to ensure safety of children and staff.



EDUCATION

- Education services reconfigured to provide a SPOC for every school with daily contacts.
- Early Help services reconfigured to provide quick response to any emerging issues.
- Clear focus on the vulnerable (EHCPs, CIN, CP, Cared for Child).
- Risk assessments across children with an EHCPs and Children with a Social Worker.
- Continuing close engagement between school, Early Help and Social Care following wider school opening.
- Laptops distributed.



CONFERENCE AND REVIEWS

- Initially held virtually.
- Now moved to a hybrid model - chair physically meeting with parents and the SW to ensure we are promoting engagement, the rest of the meeting taking place virtually.



THE TAMESIDE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP

- Exec initially met weekly and more recently fortnightly.
- Oversight, guidance and scrutiny of the partnerships activity.
- Challenge and focused audit activity.

