Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 8 December 2015

Annual Review of Services for Children and Young People Who Are Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council

Item number	7.7
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report provides an overview of service provision for children looked after and accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council and details the range of associated service area improvement plans.

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council outcomes	CO1-CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2, SO3

EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Report

Annual Review of Services for Children and Young People Who Are Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council

Recommendations

1.1 Note the positive progress made on services for looked after and accommodated children.

1.2 Note the service strategy and improvement plans for looked after and accommodated children and young people.

Background

2.1 The service area improvement plans are designed to ensure high quality services and support for looked after and accommodated children and young people during the financial year 2015/16 and beyond.

2.2 The improvement plans for the following services are provided as appendices to this report:

    2.2.1 Residential Care

    2.2.2 Residential Care: Care Inspectorate Gradings

    2.2.3 Throughcare and Aftercare

    2.2.4 Family Based Care Fostering

    2.2.5 Family Based Care Adoption/Permanence

    2.2.6 Family Based Care Kinship Support

    2.2.7 Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Main report

Strategic Direction

3.1 The primary strategic objective in 2015/16 continues to be to shift the balance of resources for looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) from relatively high cost, out of authority provision to high quality local services and to deliver consistent early and intensive intervention approaches so that fewer children and young people need to be accommodated and looked after and, where they do, to make sure they are accommodated within the City of Edinburgh Council services.

3.2 Through use of the Early Years Change Fund and initiatives agreed through the Priority Based Planning process the service has developed a transformational

programme to shift the balance of care towards more preventative and less costly services.

3.3 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out a number of new duties on public authorities in Scotland and is at various stages of consultation and implementation. The Act is central to the Scottish Government's aim of making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up by putting children and young people and their wellbeing at the heart of the planning and delivery of services and ensuring their rights are taken into account across the public sector. The Act contains significant provisions for looked after children and young people and those leaving care. A report 'Implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Update' to Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015 provides detailed information on the implementation timescale.

Corporate Parenting Action Plan

3.4 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 contains significant new duties in relation to corporate parenting. The Act lists all organisations that are corporate parents and provides direction to make sure they are clear about their duties effective from April 2015. Following a consultation period statutory Guidance for Part 9 of the Act, Corporate Parenting, was published in August 2015.

3.5 The City of Edinburgh Council has an established elected member led Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group and a well developed action plan. The Council and its partners are therefore well placed to use the opportunities provided by the new duties to further enhance the quality of care and improve outcomes for looked after children and is fully compliant with the requirements of this part of the Act.

3.6 The Edinburgh Corporate Parenting Action Plan was launched in March 2012 with 36 actions points under six key themes – Leadership; Health and Wellbeing; Education; Employment and Training; Support and Protection; and Accommodation.

3.7 The Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group, chaired by the Vice Convenor of this Committee, continues to play a key role in the development and scrutiny of the plan. The leadership group of senior managers from across the Council and partner agencies has responsibility for delivery of the action plan. There is a dedicated lead policy officer for this work.

3.8 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 has provided greater opportunity to engage and raise awareness of Corporate Parenting across the Council and partner agencies.

3.9 Education of looked after children remains a key priority. More progress continues to be needed in this area and strategies to reduce educational inequalities have been identified and implemented.

Residential Care

3.10   The City of Edinburgh Council provides a range of residential care provision:

   3.10.1   Five Young People's Centres (YPC) in Drylaw, Oxgangs, Moredun, Northfield and Greendykes – offer a total of 38 placements.

   3.10.2   One Close Support Units in Southhouse which offers five placements for young people with exceptional support needs who may require long term residential care.

   3.10.3   The Edinburgh Families Project, located in Ferniehill, provides outreach support and respite care for approximately 90 families per annum.

   3.10.4   Edinburgh Secure Services provides 12 secure and ten close support placements.

   3.10.5   The Council purchases nine placements from the Dean and Cauvin Trust for young people over the age of 15½.

3.11   On 31 August 2015 there were 79 children and young people placed in residential care, mostly within existing Children and Families resources, there were 11 young people in secure accommodation and a further six young people in specialist residential provision.

3.12   The plan to close Pentland View Close Support Unit has been implemented. Alternative care arrangements for the young people affected by this plan have been successfully secured.

3.13   As Corporate Parents, this authority has a responsibility to provide a quality living environment for children and young people in need of residential care. There remains a need to invest in an incremental rebuild and refurbishment of the Council's residential units.

3.14   In order to achieve this, the building of Heather Vale is underway as a replacement for Greendykes YPC and plans are progressing for the proposed replacement of Oxgangs YPC.

3.15   Substantial investment in the residential buildings will continue to be required to meet the expectations of the care inspectorate in their assessment of good and very good living environments for vulnerable young people in residential care. It is hoped to continue to roll out a programme of rebuild and refurbishment as and when capital investment is available.

3.16   All residential homes are inspected on a regular basis by the Care Inspectorate (twice per year). All homes received a quality grading of 'good' or 'very good' in 2014 and this has been varied into 2015 to date. The Care Inspectorate reports consistently raise concerns about the quality of the physical environment. Gradings on this theme are lower than in other areas of inspection and in comparison to homes which have been refurbished.

3.17   Southhouse, Edinburgh Families Project, Drylaw and Northfield hold a grading of 'very good' for each of the four Quality Themes.

3.18 One aspect of the environmental challenge faced within the units is the quality of IT equipment and Internet access. This is significantly below the level and quality that young people experience within the schools they attend across Edinburgh. A plan has been devised to address this which should result in children and young people living in residential care being able to access their school based computer information. This will improve their opportunity to maintain educational progress as well as enable use of computers for entertainment.

3.19 A self evaluation tool has been devised which enables the managers of residential units to evaluate their service and devise an action plan to promote the education and attainment of children and young people within their unit.

3.20 A training programme targeted at staff in the residential units has been devised which focuses upon improving awareness of education; curriculum related matters, and on supporting children and young people (and where appropriate) their family to be actively involved in their school.

3.21 Guidance for residential staff specifically focused upon supporting children and young people with their school attainment and attendance has been devised and is currently being implemented.

3.22 Educational Psychologists have been linked to each residential unit and they act as a supportive point of contact for staff.

3.23 A network of Education Link Workers has been established. This group consists of staff in each residential unit who will take on a lead role in promoting education and learning within their establishment as well as meeting on a quarterly basis.

3.24 The drive to improve health outcomes for young people who are accommodated remains a priority. The Council works in partnership with NHS Lothian LAC Nursing Team and with Edinburgh Connect to deliver best practice in health promotion and the coordination and sharing of information.

3.25 Our residential care homes continue to gain accreditation as Health Promoting Units. 100% have achieved a level one award. 70% had achieved a tier two award with the remainder on track to achieve this within the year.

3.26 This task is aided by a network of Health Promoting Unit (HPU) Coordinators. Each unit has an HPU coordinator and they take a lead role in driving forward the HPU Strategy within their unit as well as participating in the group meetings held every six weeks.

3.27 A partnership with NHS LAC Nursing Team, Edinburgh Connect, and Edinburgh Leisure continues to plan and deliver training on health related matters to staff in residential units.

3.28 A network of Health Link workers is maintained in partnership with the LAC Nursing Team. Each unit is represented on this group and the link worker takes a lead role in promoting health related matters for children and young people as well as for staff within their team.

3.29 Including the views of children and young people about their care plan and their care experiences is an important aspect of the task of residential care. Participation related activity is evident in all units and is aided by strategies such as the Health Promoting Unit approach. Devising ways to reach out and include the views of parents and other significant family members is also evident in most units. The information gathered informs development planning with the units and common themes are shared at the monthly Unit Managers meeting.

3.30 Staff in Residential Care have benefited from a specialist training programme called 'An Introduction to Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy'. This helps those attending to develop a shared understanding of the connections between a child's early years experience and their behaviour. To date over 240 staff members have been trained in this technique, increasing capacity to work with challenging behaviours.

3.31 A train the trainer approach has been devised which will enable all staff in this sector to be given access to this training. A specialist practitioners group has been established which meets monthly and aims to promote the use of this model of practice and seeks to apply its principles to the support structures around the service.

Special Residential Care

3.32 Edinburgh Families Project is a highly valued resource providing planned outreach support and short stay respite to children, young people and their families. It is a city wide preventative service that works within the family home, and, when assessed as appropriate, offers short term breaks with the aim of reducing difficulties and increasing family resilience. Individualised packages of support are tailored to meet the needs of different families.

3.33 Currently Edinburgh Families Project are working with 29 young people and their families and can offer respite care for up to five young people every night of the year.

3.34 Edinburgh Families Project is inspected on a regular basis by the Care Inspectorate. In 2015 Edinburgh Families Project maintained grades of 'very good' for each of the four Quality Themes with the indication that a grade of 'excellent' is eminently achievable if current levels of progress are sustained.

3.35 On a regular basis, Edinburgh Families Projects also provides emergency placements for young people as a result of sudden crises or changes of care plans. This has a significant impact on their ability to meet their function as an outreach/respite service. To address this issue, plans are being formulated to create an emergency/crisis service at a separate location. A lease has been taken on a property and it is envisaged that this will be operational by January 2016. It will be managed within the overall services provided by Edinburgh Families Projects.

3.36 In December 2014, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to the planned closure of Pentland View Close Support Unit. Alternative resources

were identified for all young people with three of them ceasing to be accommodated and moving on to more appropriate follow-on services. The option of VERA was taken up by a number of staff and the rest were re-deployed to similar posts across the residential estate. The closure of Pentland View allowed for a substantial revenue savings in the region of £835,000 per year. The building and grounds have subsequently been sold on the open market and the receipts have been ring-fenced to fund the proposed replacement of Oxgangs Young People's Centre on the existing site.

3.37   The remaining close support unit at Southhouse continues to provide high levels of care to five young people. This is reflected in the 'very good' grades that they achieve in their Care Inspectorate reports. The mix of young people has proven challenging and there have been a number of serious incidents of staff assaults. Demand for placements remains high.

3.38   The IT Development Officer for Looked After Children continues to improve young people and staff's awareness of issues relating to safer internet use and social media. The range of support offered includes both training and direct work. A key focus has been on enhancing the skills of young people to provide peer support in this area.

3.39   A digital newsletter specifically aimed at young people in residential units has been produced with the plan to make this a regular feature and involve young people in its design.

3.40   The Council, as part of the Connected Capital project, funded through the Super Connected Cities Programme has arranged for wireless facilities to be provided in nearly every residential service. We are in the process of identifying suitable monitoring and security facilities and one option being considered is utilising the Library Wifi channel. This would allow for age appropriate filtering. The improved internet capability has highlighted the paucity of the hardware in the units and this will require urgent attention to enable young people to access their school based computer information as well as developing life-enriching computer skills.

3.41   Edinburgh Secure Service provides high levels of care to individual young people whose behaviours make them a significant risk to themselves or others. The service works with a variety of young people; some who have experienced many forms of traumatic abuse including physical, emotional and sexual; some who may engage in self-harming behaviours; some who use drugs and alcohol in a destructive and chaotic manner; and some who have behaved in an extremely aggressive manner in the community or in previous placements.

3.42   In 2014/15 there has been a national recognition of increasing mental health and mental wellbeing needs of young people needing to be placed in secure accommodation. In response, the service has worked more closely with Lothian Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to improve the quality of care of our young people. These collaborations have created the base for developing a strategic approach by both CAMHS and Edinburgh Secure

Services. The service was inspected in January 2014 by the Mental Welfare Commission who reported favourably on the Service's safeguarding of young people with mental wellbeing issues and its work with CAMHS and Lothian Health to achieve this.

3.43 Over 80% of young people in secure services are placed through the Children's Hearings, the remainder are placed on remand. The Edinburgh Secure Service provides secure and close support residential placements and Throughcare and Aftercare support for young people.

3.44 During 2014/15 Edinburgh Secure Service worked with 25 Edinburgh young people within the secure provision and 20 Edinburgh young people within the close support and Throughcare and Aftercare provision. Many of the young people in the close support provision will have been in secure accommodation and close support is a valuable 'step down' to returning home or to a community based open placement. Edinburgh Secure Service's Throughcare and Aftercare provision provides two residential placements and a respite placement on campus and two supported flats in the community. It maintains involvement with all young people who are aged 16+, and who have used the secure or close support provision within the service, supporting their transition into the community and into their early adulthood.

3.45 Edinburgh Secure Service has met the demand for most secure placements and remand placements of Edinburgh young people. However higher than normal demand from July 2014 to April 2015 required up to an average of two to three young people to be place with secure providers out with Edinburgh. The majority of these Edinburgh young people who were placed in secure accommodation out with Edinburgh were returned to Edinburgh secure placements when placements became available.

3.46 Occupancy of the secure provision in 2014/15 has remained high at over 95% and requests for places from other local authorities often exceeds available placements. In 2014/15 Edinburgh has worked with ten young people placed with us by other local authorities. In many cases Edinburgh Secure Service was viewed as the first choice secure provider by other local authorities reflecting the quality of the experience of referring agencies when placing young people with us.

3.47 The service has been inspected by the Care Inspectorate twice during 2014/15. In October 2014 both the secure accommodation service and close support provision was graded as 'good' for Quality of Care and Support; 'very good' for Quality of Management and Leadership; 'good' for Quality of Staffing; and 'good' for Quality of Environment. In March 2015 the service was awarded grades of as 'good' for Quality of Care and Support; 'good' for Quality of Management and Leadership; 'good' in the Quality of Staffing; and 'good' in Quality of Environment.

3.48   The inspections of both provisions in 2014 specifically noted the quality and skill of staff and leadership within the service; excellence in the engagement of service users; the quality of the attachment approach used; and the promotion of young people's health and wellbeing.

3.49   In June 2015 the service was inspected by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate. This was the first inspection of the service's schools and also learning across education and care. In significant contrast to the highly positive inspection of 2010, Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate identified significant weaknesses. The service was graded as 'weak' in the quality indicators for Improvements in Performance, Meeting Learning Needs, The Curriculum and Improvement Through Self-Evaluation. The service's ability to Meet Learner's Experiences was graded as 'satisfactory'. The service with support from external line management and assistance from Education Scotland has taken direct action to meet the necessary improvements.

3.50   The use of secure accommodation in Edinburgh remains relatively high compared to other areas of Scotland and we are continuing to look at developing strategies to both reduce usage as well as the length of time a young person is placed in secure care.

Throughcare and Aftercare

3.51   Throughcare and Aftercare (TcAc) services are provided by a number of teams and agencies; the Throughcare and Aftercare team at 329 High Street, the Alison Unit team at Edinburgh Secure Service, Barnardos 16+ service and Dean and Cauvin Aftercare service.

3.52   All young people who are eligible for a service can access the duty service provided at 329 High Street.

3.53   The Council has a duty to provide certain Throughcare and Aftercare services, including Pathways assessments, planning and reviews, to eligible young people up until their 19th birthday, and powers to assist them up to their 26th birthday following the recent changes in legislation. These changes in legislation have meant that the client population has increased and within the next four years to March 2019 it will have increased by at least 100%.

3.54   A new provision of Continuing Care has been made allowing young people who are currently legally LAC to request to remain in their care placement once they have ceased to be a LAC young person. A concern from this change in legislation will mean an added pressure on already stretched residential resources and placements.

3.55   The additional temporary posts of two Mental Health Practitioners, one Housing Development Officer, one Welfare and Information post and one part-time Literacy and Numeracy Worker have continued to provide services for vulnerable care leavers and these are valuable supports for young adults.

3.56 Much work has been done over the last four years to evidence the improvement of Pathway planning for care leavers. In 2010/2011 nine percent had a Pathway Plan. Currently the average figure as of July 2015 is 68%. The target is to reach 75% and hold it at this figure or above. This is an ambitious target as the plan requires full agreement and engagement from the young person.

3.57 As at 1 September 2015, the overall number of young people eligible for Throughcare and Aftercare was 1342, of these many will not need to access the TcAc service or only need to use the existing duty system. This is a substantial increase and is directly linked to the changes in legislation and the increase of eligibility up to the young person's 26th birthday.

3.58 443 Young People are currently receiving a service, either as an allocated case or by accessing duty services.

3.59 The overall number of cases allocated a Pathway Co-ordinator across all the city's Throughcare and Aftercare services is 217. The team also offers a duty service to a number of young people from other local authorities who are eligible for TcAc and are currently residing in Edinburgh. This number is variable and currently stands at 23.

3.60 A weekly 'Drop In' option is available to any young person eligible for Throughcare and Aftercare service. This is staffed by Throughcare and Aftercare workers from TcAc team, Alison Unit team, our Throughcare and Aftercare Nurse Practitioner, Mental Health Practitioner, Literacy and Numeracy Worker, Information and Advice Officer with input from Skills Development Scotland, Passport, Housing Options Team, Venture Trust, Networks Throughcare and a number of other agencies. The 'Drop In' has recently been extended offering focussed activities including preparation and development of independence skills, linking in to community based resources (including libraries, museums and leisure facilities), money management, interview and presentation skills.

3.61 There are also some commissioned services for care leavers with accommodation needs. The monthly Housing and Accommodation Panel meets to provide accommodation for looked after children or previously looked after children. Demand is high, outstripping the current availability of accommodation. In 2014 there were 93 new referrals for accommodation (an increase from 2013) adding to the 19 open cases at the beginning of the year. The Panel placed 82% of young people in a positive destination.

Family Based Care Fostering

3.62 The recruitment of foster carers continues to be a major priority for Family Based Care and a key tenant of the Balance of Care agenda intended to move expenditure from high cost externally purchased services to lower cost services which can meet the needs of Edinburgh's looked after and accommodated children and young people. Our recruitment strategy has continued to evolve to communicate messages about the characteristics we are looking for in carers as

well as more focused recruitment highlighting our need for carers who can take teenagers, sibling groups, and children with a disability. We continue to recruit within the city and further afield primarily in the Lothian's and Scottish Borders, Fife and Central Scotland.

3.63   In 2014/2015, 518 enquiries were received from prospective carers. During the same period 29 new carers were approved, three more than were approved in 2013/14. Nine of these approvals were in relation to carers who transferred to the City of Edinburgh Council from independent fostering agencies. Carers transferring to the Council offer significant benefits such as being able to directly provide support and development opportunities to meet specific needs, a better knowledge or the carers to facilitate the best possible matching of children into placements and also major cost savings of fees to independent fostering agencies. In 2014/15 an additional £180k income was generated in respect of children looked after by another local authority in placement with carers who transferred to the City of Edinburgh Council. During 2014/14, 19 carers from the Council were deregistered through retirement and personal reasons with a small number deregistered through failure to meet the expected care standards.

3.64   At the end of September 2015, 624 children and young people were accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council in foster care. Of these 378 (60%) were placed with our own carers and 246 (40%) were in placements purchased from 18 independent fostering agencies. We use independent agency foster carers to meet demand that cannot be met by foster carers recruited by the City of Edinburgh Council. Throughout 2014/15 and to present day work continues to shift the balance to a higher proportion of children placed with the Council's own foster carers.

3.65   In addition to full time foster care placements we continue to provide respite foster care and day care services. Respite foster care is used to support children living with parents or kinship carers as well as providing alternative placements for children during holiday periods. Work is now progressing to ensure that the provision of respite foster care is aligned to the Council's obligations in respect of Self Directed Support. Day care services continue to support children primarily under five years old involved in child protection processes and those at risk of becoming looked after. There is ongoing work to examine options for the delivery of day care services alongside the increased capacity available in the Council's Early Years Centres.

3.66   The participation of carers, their families and accommodated young people in shaping the service continues to be promoted within the context of the Family Based Care Participation Strategy. We have increased the opportunities for carers in particular to become involved in influencing the development of the service. The range of participation opportunities involving carers include Recruitment and Social Pedagogy Strategy Groups, recruitment activities both at events and in the media, reviewing procedures and publicity materials as well as involvement on a range of working groups.

3.67 Family Based Care continues to facilitate a range of carer support groups which offer carers regular opportunities to come together to explore common issues, participate in training and develop their support networks. In 2014/15, the Howdenhall Hub support group was established. This group brings together carers for children aged over ten and staff from the Edinburgh Secure Service. Through sharing of practice and the development of good working relationships a small number of children have transitioned and sustained a move from a secure placement to a foster care placement. The unique feature of the Howdenhall Hub is that carers who participate have telephone access on a 24 hour basis to experienced staff from Edinburgh Secure Service who can offer advice to help avert potential crisis situations developing in the foster care placement.

3.68 The Councils involvement in the Fostering Network's 'Head, Heart and Hands' project continued in 2014/15 with 59 carers and 19 staff being trained in Social Pedagogy. Feedback from foster carers has been extremely positive with a commonly held perspective that the training had provided then with tangible ways of better engaging and understanding the perspectives of the children in a different light. To continue the impact achieved through the project stage of Head, Hearts and Hands the two Social Pedagogy members of staff have now been recruited on a full time basis.

3.69 In October 2014, the Fostering Service was subject to a statutory inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The service was graded as 'good' across all quality statements inspected. A follow up inspection is scheduled for the last quarter of 2015.

Family Based Care Permanence

3.70 The Family Based Care Permanence Team has responsibility for recruiting, training and supporting adopters and permanent foster carers in addition to tracking and finding families for all children who are registered as being in need of permanent care through adoption or permanent fostering. The Permanence Team also provides support to adopters and permanent foster carers following the placement of a child.

3.71 During 2014/15, the Council's Permanence Panels' registered fourteen children for permanence with the legal route of adoption through a Permanence Order with Authority to Adopt (POAA), four children for permanence with the legal route of adoption through Direct Petition and forty six children for permanent foster care with the legal route of a Permanence Order (PO). This resulted in there being a total of 236 children for whom the City of Edinburgh Council holds a Permanence Order (PO) and 45 children for whom an adoptive placement is being sought.

3.72 During the same time period 27 children were placed for adoption. Of this number, three (11%) were under 12 months old at point of placement. Six (22%)

were aged between 12 and 24 months when placed. Ten (37%) children aged between two and four years old and eight (30%) were five years old or over.

3.73   41 children ceased to be looked after by the Council as a result of being legally adopted in 2014/15. Of this number, one (2.5%) was under 12 months old at point of placement. 14 (34%) were aged between 12 and 24 months when placed. 19 (46%) children aged between two and four years old and seven (17.5%) were five years old or over.

3.74   21 sets of adoptive parents were approved by the City of Edinburgh Council during 2014/15. In addition these numbers were augmented through spot purchase arrangements with other local authority and independent adoption agencies.

3.75   The Permanence Team actively participated in the Scottish Adoption Register including Adoption Exchange day events to seek adoptive families for harder to place children. For children who required particular placements to meet their ethnic and cultural needs, Adoption Registers in England and Wales were utilised.

3.76   To meet the demand for adoptive placements the Permanence Team delivered four preparation courses during 2014/15.In this financial year, there are four scheduled preparation courses. The first three are full and the fourth, scheduled for February 2016 is filling up. The level of interest in adoption has to date negated the need for significant additional recruitment activity.

3.77   The Council has duties to provide post-adoption support. The Permanence Team supports over 100 adopters who have been recruited since the inception of the team in 2007. A general level of support is provided to all Council adopters in the form of regular newsletters, training opportunities and group support such as the Growing with Confidence programme, Talking about Adoption, the Single Adopters Group. A group for dads and a group for children are being established.

3.78   As part of the Post Adoption Service some staff have been trained in the use of Theraplay and use this technique to provide support to adoptive families and children as well as to newly approved adopters.

3.79   The service has taken on responsibility from Scottish Adoption of enabling Information Exchange between birth families and adopted children for all new adoption placements from April 2015. The service is currently managing 17 such arrangements. This area will continue to expand.

3.80   A panel has been established whose role is to consider and approve referrals for specialist interventions delivered by external agencies and focused upon supporting adoptive parents and children who may be experiencing difficulties. Examples of this are the provision of art therapy, therapeutic counselling and the provision of additional Post Adoption Support allowances.

3.81   A range of services to support people affected by adoption are also commissioned from Scottish Adoption, which includes supervised contact and counselling for mothers who are considering voluntarily giving up their babies for adoption and for adults affected by adoption.

3.82   In October 2014, the Permanence Team was subject to a statutory inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The service was graded as 'very good' in all three of the themes. A follow up inspection is anticipated in November 2015.

Family Based Care Kinship Support

3.83   Through the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund, resources were made available to establish a Kinship Support Team. The remit of this team is to offer direct support to kinship carers and to coordinate support provided through commissioned and partner agencies.

3.84   The Kinship Support Team became operational in November 2013. Since inception the team members have directly supported 159 kinship carers, undertaken 15 Kinship Assessments and coordinated the move of 14 children from foster carers to kinship carers. A telephone support line has been established which allows kinship carers to seek support. The team facilitates an Easter Activity Event and Christmas Party to bring kinship families together.

3.85   The Kinship Support Team have developed partnerships with Kinsfolkcarers, Kinship Care Support Group, With Kids, Winton Bear Foundation, Mentor UK, Edinburgh Connect and Big Hearts to ensure that a range of supports are available to kinship carers.

3.86   Similar to the model of adoption support, the Kinship Support Team engage with all kinship carers through newsletters, training sessions and an advice line. A secondary level including direct work is time limited and focused on addressing particular difficulties kinship carers are experiencing.

Children's Rights Office

3.87   The primary function of the Children's Rights Office is to advocate on behalf of looked after and accommodated children to resolve any complaints or concerns they may have regarding their care or service they receive.

3.88   During 2014/15, the Children's Rights Officers undertook regular scheduled visits to the Council's residential units as well as residential establishments out with Edinburgh where the Council has placed children. This includes visiting each child placed in secure accommodation. In addition they support individual looked after and accommodated children in foster care and residential care.

3.89   During 2014/15, the Children's Rights Office provided advocacy support for an average of 16 children per month at formal meetings such as Looked After Children Reviews and Children's Hearings. For 52% of these children, the focus of the support was through representation at statutory meetings such as Children's Hearings and Looked After Children Reviews. Support to prepare for these statutory meetings accounted for a further 15% of children referred.

Contact with family and friends accounted for a further 15% and the remainder related to allowances and grants; children in secure care and complaints.

3.90   The Children's Rights Officers work in collaboration with Who Cares? Scotland's project worker to ensure looked after and accommodated children and young people receive a consistent quality of advocacy support. Quarterly reports detailing service delivery and salient issues of concern are provided by the Children's Rights Office and the Who Cares? Scotland project worker to Senior Managers in Communities and Families.

3.91   The Who cares? Scotland project worker works with around 14 children each month focusing on similar issues to the children's rights officer.

3.92   The Who cares? Scotland project worker also facilitates the monthly meeting of the Young People in Care Council (YPiCC).

3.93   To ensure children's rights are paramount in service delivery managers from both services met regularly with the Head of Children's Services

3.94   A review of services providing advocacy to children led to a consultation on the future model of service delivery. A report to the Council in autumn 2014 recommended that independent service provision shall be the preferred model of service delivery.

3.95   A tender for the provision of independent advocacy services for looked after and accommodated children will be published in November 2015 and it is anticipated that the new service shall be delivered from April 2016.

Measures of success

4.1   Success measures are set out in the service area improvement plans appended to this report.

Financial impact

5.1   The financial implications of the service area improvement plans are currently met by existing budgets. It is the intention of the strategy and plan that costs will be reduced significantly from those that will occur if the plan is not delivered.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1   Services for children and young people who are looked after are priority statutory services subject to regulation and inspection at a range of levels.

Equalities impact

7.1   The contents of this report contribute to the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty by advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations and a full Equalities Impact Analysis was not required.

Sustainability impact

8.1   There is no significant environmental impact.

Consultation and engagement

9.1   There is regular and extensive consultation and engagement activity with children and young people who are looked after. This area of practice was identified by the Care Inspectorate as 'very good' in the Children's Services Inspection.

Background reading/external references

Annual Review of Service Strategy for Children and Young People who are Looked After and Accommodated by CEC – Report to Education, Children and Families Committee 11 September 2014

Early Years Change Fund Progress Update on Year Three – Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015

Looked After Children: Transformational Programme Progress Report – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 23 September 2015

Gillian Tee

Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Scott Dunbar, Service Manager, Looked After and Accommodated Children

E-mail: scott.dunbar@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3123

Links

Coalition pledges	P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
Council outcomes	CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed
	CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities
	CO3 – Our children and young people in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances
	CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy
	CO5 – Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities
	CO6 – Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 – Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
	SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	1 Residential Care
	2 Residential Care: Recent Care Inspectorate Gradings
	3 Throughcare and Aftercare
	4 Family Based Care Fostering
	5 Family Based Care Adoption/Permanence
	6 Family Based Care Kinship Support
	7 Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Residential Service Improvement Plan 2015/16   **Appendix 1**

No	Action	Lead Officer	Completion/ Review Date
1	Review the Residential Child Care Provision in light of the current financial situation.	Service Manager – Looked After Children	December 2015
2	Following Residential Care Review take forward identifying the remit of Heather Vale which will be opening in March 2016	Service Manager – Looked After Children	December 2015
3	Once the remit has been finalised of Heather Vale take forward the recruitment of staff to this new modern provision.	Team Manager – Residential Care, Throughcare & Aftercare	February 2016
4	Following meeting with colleagues in Family Based Care and with Foster Carers and the setting up of the support to foster carers at Edinburgh Secure Services consider how to cascade this practice to other residential units.	Team Manager – Specialist Residential Care	March 2016
5	Within the aspiration of modernising and upgrading the Residential Care aging buildings take forward planning in building a second new Residential Unit as a replacement for Oxgangs YPC.	Service Manager – Looked After Children	August 2016
6	Continuing with the gathering of information on trends of young people requiring admission to residential care we will analysis the presenting needs of young people and how residential care can best meet these needs.	Team Manager – Specialist Residential Care	March 2016
7	Having previously identified ways in which to improve our recruitment centre model, there will be an annual review of the Residential care Officer Recruitment process.	Recruitment Manager	March 2016
8	Open the Crisis Flat with the aim of reducing young people being admitted full time to care and preventing the disruption emergency admissions cause to established resident groups in Residential Units.	Team Manager – Residential Care, Throughcare & Aftercare	March 2016
9	Continue to maintain the level of Good Grades as minimum across all Quality Statements and all units in Edinburgh. In addition to this look to aspire to most Units reaching grades of Very Good across all quality statements of the Care Inspectorate.	Team Manager – Residential Care, Throughcare & Aftercare & Team Manager – Specialist Residential Care	March 2016
10	Continuing with the Balance of Care Agenda look to continue to reduce admissions of young people to Residential Care.	Team Manager – Residential Care, Throughcare & Aftercare	March 2016
11	Review the attendance by young people at the Young People in Care Council (YPiCC) and take forward any actions identified to maintain and increase young people's participation.	Team Manager – Specialist Residential Care	August 2016
12	Following the creation and implementation of the four localities with the City of Edinburgh Council we will review how Residential Sector as a centralised service engages with local services and agencies.	Team Manager – Residential Care, Throughcare & Aftercare & Specialist Residential Care	March 2016

Latest/Last Inspection Grades as at 27 October 2015

Unit	Quality Statement – Latest Grades			
	1. Quality of Care and Support	2. Quality of Environment	3. Quality of Staffing	4. Quality of Management & Leadership
Drylaw	5	5	6	5
ESS – Close Support	4	4	4	5
ESS – Secure	4	4	4	4
EFP	6	5	6	5
Greendykes	4	4	4	4
Moredun	5	4	4	4
Northfield	5	5	5	5
Oxgangs	5	4	5	4
Southhouse	5	5	5	5

Key: 1 – Poor   2 – Weak   3 – Adequate   4 – Good   5 – Very Good   6 - Excellent

No	Action	Lead Officer	Completion/ Review Date
1	Further develop systems and explore new ways of obtaining young people's feedback on service delivery and wider TcAc developments	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
2	Develop processes to embed young people in key service systems, e.g. recruitment and induction of new staff	Senior Social Worker – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
3	Complete work on young people leaving care information and consider the possible development of an app.	Senior Social Worker – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
4	Develop constructive links with Kinship and Foster care services and providers	Senior Social Worker – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
5	Develop reliable system for identifying chair of Pathway reviews at point of case allocation/transition meeting.	Business Officer – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	December 2015
6	Promote affordable healthy eating via joint work with Edinburgh Food Initiative	Nurse Practitioner - Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
7	Develop and deliver Depression training and Suicide Training for staff and young people.	Mental Health Worker - Throughcare and Aftercare Team	December 2015
8	Increase/update awareness sessions on the use of NPS (Legal Highs) to the staff team.	Senior Social Worker – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
9	Using data available from the Housing and Support panel, work up projections for accommodation requirements relating to legislative changes	Housing and Development Worker - Throughcare and Aftercare Team	December 2015
10	Explore viable options for developing a resource for difficult to place, high support need young people	Housing and Development Worker - Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
11	Build on recent improved links with DWP staff to improve relationships and outcomes for young people, e.g. exploring the Fife and Angus council models of joint working.	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
12	Reformat Financial Procedures document following a review and update financial information available for young people following the changes in legislation.	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
13	In partnership with SDS, further develop the Job Club at the Drop In and explore options for increasing SDS hours within TcAc based at 329	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
14	Pilot a regular baby/toddler reading group for young parents	Literacy Worker - Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
15	Explore setting up a Specialised Risk multi –agency management group (with defined referral protocol) to support workers/agencies to consider options for particularly struggling hard to support/ accommodate / manage/ at risk young people failing in existing options	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016
16	Develop systems for reviewing risk in the Drop In, including use of the hand over diary, listening to views of young people, etc... (329)	Senior Social Worker – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	December 2015
17	Review feedback from young people and develop appropriate action plan.	Manager – Throughcare and Aftercare Team	March 2016

FAMILY BASED CARE - FOSTER CARE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015/16

REF	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
A. PLANNING AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT		
A1	Publish Foster Care Services Plan 2015-17	1/9/15
A2	Publish individual FBC Team Plans	1/4/15
A3	Staff PRD plans will be linked to actions in FBC Services and Team Plans	1/5/15
A4	Expand linking and matching process into all non emergency foster care placement moves	1/9/15
A5	Establish group of service users to work in partnership to develop Fostering services	1/6/15
A6	Establish regular forum to explore staff and service development and improvement opportunities	1/4/15
A7	Establish feedback model from placing social workers	1/8/15
A8	Set expectation through commissioning that all children placed with Independent Fostering Agencies can participate in service development	1/5/15
A9	Utilise web site and social media inform service users of participation opportunities	1/5/15
A10	Seek feedback from carers to inform FBC social workers PRD appraisal	1/5/15
A11	Inform carer recruitment strategy through analysis reporting of placement need from Under and Over 12 Referral Panels.	1/9/15
A12	Implement End to End procedures for Foster Care recruitment and carer management	1/6/15
A13	Review and implement revised Intake service delivery model	1/9/15
A14	Review FBC Business Support processes and service delivery	1/8/15
A15	Implement Carer Support and Adaptation Panel	1/4/15
A16	Develop Self Directed Support Guidance for staff and carers	1/9/15
A17	Track all FBC referrals (inc Disability and Specialist in Under 12's Referral Panel	1/9/15
A18	Report Under 12's Referral Panel outcomes to C & F Management	1/6/15
A19	Monitor and report permanence planning drift planning drift to C & F Management	1/6/15
A20	Review all FBC carer transfers quarterly	1/6/15
A21	Establish quarterly budget review Finance and FBC Management Tea m	1/4/15
A22	Establish links between FBC and Residential services to enhance additional support for carers	1/4/15

REF	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
A23	Develop business case to integrate Social Pedagogy practice within Family Based Care	1/9/15
A24	Establish FBC lead officer to develop shared practice with Housing Services	1/6/15
A25	Establish Team Leader and Social Worker link roles with each Neighbourhood Practice Team	1/6/15
A26	Develop and implement real time carer capacity reporting	1/8/15
A27	Implement amended Looked After Children (Scotland) Amended Regulations 2014	1/7/15
A28	Implement new national Placement Descriptors	1/9/15
A29	Implement revised policy of approving all foster carers for placements up to 18 years old but with a clear narrative of accessed and preferred age capacity.	1/9/15
B. QUALITY ASSURANCE		
B1	Review and revise Inspection preparation model	1/8/15
B2	Monitor and improve performance of Carer Reviews to 90%	31/3/16
B3	Monitor and improve performance of unannounced visits to 90%	31/3/16
B4	Implement revised carer supervision model	1/6/15
B5	Establish SWIFT recording procedure for contact with children in foster care placements *	1/6/15
B5	Implement revised carer SWIFT chronology and recording	1/6/15
B6	Implement auditing process for carer case files *	1/8/15
B7	Implement Outcome Tracker for all children placed in foster care	1/10/15
B8	Implement Team Leader checklist process to ensure comprehensive information if presented to Fostering Panels	1/7/15
B9	Implement model of supervision and appraisal of Fostering Panel members	1/8/15
C. CARER , STAFF AND PANEL MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT		
C1	Implement foster carer training strategy	1/6/15
C2	Implement staff training strategy including induction for new staff	1/8/15
C3	Implement panel member training strategy	1/8/15
C4	Designate staff member to be social media/internet safety lead	1/4/15
C5	Publish revised Carer Handbook *	1/6/15
C6	Map and establish Carer Support groups function and support needs	1/6/15

*Care Inspectorate notification from 2014 Inspection of Foster Care Service

Adoption/Permanence Improvement Plan 2015/16

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	Completion Date	Progress
	A. Planning and Service development			
A1	Publish Permanence Service plan 2015/16	Team Manager Permanence	30.04.15	Further action required
A2	Publish Post Adoptions Service Team Plan 2015/16	Team Manager Permanence	30.04.15	Complete
A3	Establish FBC carer support and adaptation panel	Team Manager Permanence	30.04.15	Complete
A4	Develop strategy to Increase the number of children placed with CEC Adopters and Permanent Foster Carers and reduce the use of purchased placements	Team Leader Permanence(MC)(CH)	31.12.15	Update required
A5	Devise and Implement end to end process for recruiting, managing and supporting adopters and foster carers	Team Manager Permanence	30.06.15	Further action required
A6	Review and Revise the Adoption Allowance Scheme and other financial provisions to adopters	Team Manager Permanence	30.06.15	Further action required
A7	Review and revise Adopter Preparation Group content and delivery model	Team Leader Permanence (MC)	31.05.15	Complete
A8	Devise and Implement strategy for the recruitment of permanent foster carers	Team Leader Permanence(CH)	31.12.15	Further action required
A9	Review Business Support processes	Team Manager Permanence/Business Manager	31.12.15	Complete
A10	Review and revise Family Finding/Tracking process and practice in relation to Independent agencies	Team Leader Permanence(CK)	31.12.15	Update required
A11	Monitor and report permanence planning drift C & F Management	Team Leader Permanence(CK)	31.08.15	Update required
A12	Staff PRD plans will be linked to actions in Permanence and post Adoption Support service plans	Team Leaders Permanence	31.05.15	Complete

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	Completion Date	Progress
A13	Establish regular Budget monitoring and review in conjunction with Finance	Team Manager Permanence/ Accountant	30.04.15	Complete
A14	Review format of meetings structure and adjust to meet service need	Team Leader Permanence(CK)	30.04.15	Complete
A15	Further develop linking and coordination process	Team Leader Permanence(CH)	31.12.15	Update required
A16	Devise and implement plan to operate Information exchange	Team Leader Permanence (CH)(CK)	31.05.15	Update required
	B. Quality Assurance			
B1	Review and update Adoption information on Council website	Team Leader Permanence(MC)(CK)	31.12.15	Update required
B2	Compile written information on adoption and possible future issues for children	Team Leader Permanence(CH)(CK)	31.08.15	Update required
B3	Compile written and other forms of information that illustrate child's journey into adoption	Team Leader Permanence(CH)(CK)	31.08.15	Update required
B4	Devise and implement a process of regular audits of files	Team Leader Permanence(MC)	31.08.15	Update required
B5	Review and develop systems of data collections which can monitor and inform the development of the service and contribute to workload management	Team Manager Permanence	31.08.15	Update required
B6	Review and revise Inspection preparation model	Team Manager Permanence	30.06.15	Complete
B7	Devise and implement process to supervise and appraise panel members	Team Leader - Panel Coordinator	31.12.15	Complete
B8	Devise means of tracking and reviewing impact of staff training	Team Leader Permanence(MC)	30.06.15	Update required
B9	Identify profile of children in need of permanence	Team Leader Permanence(CH)(CK)	30.06.15	Update required

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	Completion Date	Progress
	C. Staff, Adopter and panel member development			
C1	Devise and implement a staff training strategy identifying core and advanced training and development skills	Team Leader Permanence(MC)	31.12.15	Update required
C2	Explore viability of establishing an adopted children's group	Team Leader Permanence(CH)	30.06.15	Update required
C3	Devise and implement a participation strategy enabling adopters to participate in and inform the development of the service	Team Leader Permanence(MC)	30.06.15	Update required
C4	Devise and implement Panel member training strategy	Team Leader - Panel Coordinator	31.12.15	Complete
C5	Explore viability of establishing a dads group	Team Leader Permanence(CH)	30.06.15	Update required

Recommendations from the Care Inspection report 2014 are:

A5

B2 B3 B4

C1 C4

Kinship Care Support Team Service Plan 2015/16   **Appendix 6**

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	Review Date	Completion Date
1	a)Review and revise Kinship Procedure b) Swift Processes c) budget d) mailing/contact list/annual publication distribution	a) Team Leader b) Team Leader and Social Work Asst(A) c) Team Leader and Social Work Asst(B) d) Social Work Asst(A)	b) monthly with Business Performance Manager d) review monthly	a)30.03.15 c)05.02.15
2	Raise service profile: a) ***Leaflet distribution:*** *the neighbourhood practice teams will be given a supply first. Team members will carry a small amount of leaflets with them and when they visit libraries and Health Centres they will leave some. Team Leadre will speak with communications to see if our leaflets can be distributed centrally here after.* b) ***Website:*** *to accurately reflect the service provision available.* c) ***Posters:*** *A4 poster to develop and distributed* d) ***Open session for staff:*** *raise awareness for new staff. Team Leader to explore what is currently available within FBC with a view to joining.* e) ***1 to 1's introductions*** *to service for new staff across the council.*	a) Social Worker(DS): North/East Social Work Assistant(M): Fort Social Worker(J): Waverley Ct Social Work Asst(B): South West Team Leader: West and communications Social Worker (KL): South b) Team Leader c) Team Leader and Social Work Assistant (M) d) Team Leader/Social Worker(J)/Social Work Asst(B) e) Social Worker(J)	a) 29.01.15 b) 12.02.15 e) 26.03.15	a) 12.02.15 b) 30.03.15 c) 22.01.15 d) 29.01.15
3	Implement Level 1 (Universal) Kinship Support Services to include:	a) Social Worker (KL)	b) 10.09.15	a) 5.03.15 and

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	Review Date	Completion Date
	a) **Newsletter** *(twice a year)* b) **Advice Line** *(every Mon 9am to 5pm)*: Dana to provide a new rota. Staff to continue to complete the advice line activity spreadsheet. c) **Kinship Carers Coffee Morning (monthly)** d) **Event opportunities** *(tickets for shows etc)* e) **Workshops** *for kinship carers: contact support groups to see if there is an interest and advertise in Newsletter.* f) **Triple P Parenting programme** g) **Season's for Growth** h) **Easter Activity Event** i) **Christmas Party** j) **Christmas card competition** k) **Open week** *(5 morning sessions open over a week to encourage kinship carers to drop in to find out what we do, offer their views of need and speak with a member of staff about queries/concerns specific to their situation)* l) **Life story** *information and workshop (proposed plan of time and cost)*	b) As detailed in the rota c) As detailed in Rota d) As required and in line with advice line rota e) All f) Social Worker(DS): and James g) Team Leader, Social Worker (KL)(ET) h) Social Worker(DS)(ET) and Team Leader i) Team Leader and Social Work Asst(A) j) Team Leader and Social Work Assistant k) Team Leader and All l) Social Worker (KL)	c) 10.09.15 d) 10.09.15 e) 10.09.15 k) 7.04.15 and 05.05.15 l) 17.03.15	8.10.15 f) 06.04.15 g) 01.06.15 h) 08.04.15 i) 11.12.15 j) 11.12.15 k) 12.06.15
5	Implement Level 2 (Assessed need) Kinship Support Service: a) *Individual Support (bespoke 1 to 1 intervention)* b) *Coordinations (managing the transition of children into kinship care)* c) *Kinship Assessment: (assessing the safety, suitability and capacity of kinship carers) social workers to have at least 1 assessment allocated at any time* d) *Housing adaptations (any cases of overcrowding that is believed to need housing adaptations should be discussed with Dana to progress)*	a) All as allocated b) Team Leader, Social Worker (KL) c) As allocated d) Team Leader	a) Reviewed in supervision b) 10.09.15 c) 10.09.15 d) 10.09.15	Ongoing
6	Review and update Service Plan	Team Leader /All		10.09.15

Key Themes

1. Leadership

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-1.1 Leadership Group and MOG to monitor and scrutinise set of Performance Indicators
CF-CPAPRe-1.2 Communicate and raise awareness of corporate parenting action plan and outcomes to all LAC
CF-CPAPRe-1.3 Raise awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities for all Council staff and partner agency through training and communication activity.
CF-CPAPRe-1.4 Raise public awareness of the Council's corporate parenting role and celebrate the success of looked after children's achievements in Edinburgh.
CF-CPAPRe-1.5 Each Service incorporates corporate parenting objectives and performance in their service plan.
CF-CPAPRe-1.6 Incorporate corporate parenting objectives in Director level PRDs.
CF-CPAPRe-1.7 Council resources maximise opportunities to promote corporate parenting e.g. appropriate CEC vehicles display advertisements for foster carer recruitment campaigns.
CF-CPAPRe-1.8 Develop a mentor service

Key Themes

2. Health and wellbeing

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-2.1 Encourage a range of Edinburgh venues/clubs to ring fence tickets for looked after children inc Football, rugby, concerts
CF-CPAPRe-2.2 Looked after children and young adults involved in TcAc are provided with no cost/low cost access to Council supported leisure facilities.
CF-CPAPRe-2.3 A proportion of tickets for Council organised events are ring fenced for looked after children.
CF-CPAPRe-2.4 Ensure all LAC referred to CAMHS awaiting treatment are seen within 4 weeks
CF-CPAPRe-2.5 Expand health promoting units programme.
CF-CPAPRe-2.6 In partnership with NHS Lothian ensure the health assessment requirements in relation to CEL16 are achieved.
CF-CPAPRe-2.7 Provide Hepatitis B Vaccination to foster carers and residential staff.
CF-CPAPRe-2.8 All children registered for permanence are subject to a medical prior to registration

Key Themes

3. Education

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-3.1 Young people in residential units have access to WiFi and technology to support their education
CF-CPAPRe-3.2 Case management arrangements for supporting looked after children not attending formal education to return with minimum delay is fully implemented.
CF-CPAPRe-3.3 Strengthen support to maintain Looked After Children at school.
CF-CPAPRe-3.4 Promote understanding of looked after children for all school staff through mandatory training.
CF-CPAPRe-3.5 Integrate school (SEEMIS) and social work (SWIFT) client record systems and Child Health record (TRAK) to allow greater sharing of information about individual looked after children.

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-3.6 Ensure the views of parents and carers of looked after children are included in educational planning.
CF-CPAPRe-3.7 Increase the number of Looked After Children leaving school going on to a positive destination.
CF-CPAPRe-3.8 Increase attainment of Looked After Children measured by average tariff score.

Key Themes

4. Employment and Training

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-4.1 A dynamic "Family Firm" policy is implemented which ring fences a range of Council training opportunities and apprenticeships commensurate to the projected number of care leavers.
CF-CPAPRe-4.2 The "Family Firm" model is expanded to include Health and private sector employers.

Key Themes

5. Support and Protection

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-5.1 Looked after children and young adults involved in TcAc are provided with no cost/low cost access to bus travel
CF-CPAPRe-5.2 Extend Through Care/After care support in line with C&YP Act
CF-CPAPRe-5.3 A comprehensive list of services is available to care leavers.
CF-CPAPRe-5.4 Develop a protocol to allow LAC to seamlessly transfer to adult supported placements
CF-CPAPRe-5.5 Develop support services for young parents
CF-CPAPRe-5.6 Expand the range of foster care options within CEC resources

Key Themes

6. Accommodation

Actions
CF-CPAPRe-6.1 The physical environments in YP's Centres, Close Support Units and Secure Services are upgraded to the Care Inspectorate standard of Very Good through a rolling programme of planned rebuilding and refurbishment. To be included in the Capital Asset
CF-CPAPRe-6.2 Procurement and property services to adjust approach to consider Units as a home rather than an institution.
CF-CPAPRe-6.3 Repairs to residential units to be prioritised by property services
CF-CPAPRe-6.4 Budget is identified to specifically fund suitable accommodation provision for young care leavers who fall within the national definition of "vulnerable, chaotic and multi-issued".
CF-CPAPRe-6.5 Increase capacity of Edinburgh Families Project to deal with crisis and emergency situations to mitigate emergency admissions into residential units.
CF-CPAPRe-6.6 The range of safe and suitable accommodation for care leavers is expanded and protected, accompanied by simple to use access systems and detailed information about the tenancy and locality
CF-CPAPRe-6.7 Foster carers and Kinship are supported to move to suitable Council accommodation to provide more placements.