

Cumbria Children Looked After Strategy 2019 – 23

Action Plan Year 1 (2019-20)

This document sets out the action plan for the first year of delivery of the Children Looked After Strategy. The actions show how the national corporate parenting principles are being delivered in Cumbria. The Corporate Parenting Board will meet every two months and receive updates on progress via:

- Standing reports/updates
- One off Deep Dives (these explore a topic in depth)
- A 6 monthly overall report on progress in delivering the Strategy (May and November).

The Plan also gives an indication of proposed activities for years 2 and 3 of the Strategy.

Corporate Parenting Principle 1: To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children looked after and care leavers. (Best Interests)

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead member	Service lead(s)
Delivery of the Be Healthy Sub-Group Action Plan	Milestones in the Be Healthy Sub-Group Plan Recommendations re Care Leavers see below (Principle 6)	Be Healthy Sub-Group Plan Cumbria CYP Resilience, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Plan	Six month report to CPB (Nov 19, May 20, Nov 20) Deep dive on emotional health and Wellbeing (Feb 2020)	Louise Mason-Lodge	Louise Mason-Lodge, Colin Cox.
Promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with leisure providers to create an offer for Care Leavers • Explore similar offers for Foster Carers and children looked after • Explore engagement opportunities for foster carers, children looked after and care leavers in the wider Active Cumbria programme 		Active Cumbria 3 Year Plan Care Leaver Offer	6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Joel Rasbash	Bruce Lawson

Corporate Parenting Principle 2: To encourage children looked after and care leavers to express their views, wishes and feelings and take into account their views wishes and feelings (Voice of the child and young person)

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead	Service Lead
Consistent embedding of Signs of Safety practice model across children and families services including CLA teams	December 2019	SoS Implementation Plan 2019	SoS presentation to CPB (Jan 20)	Lynn Berryman	Liz McKie
Pathway Plan and Pathway Assessment redesigned (in conjunction with care leavers) to make simpler, more user friendly and incorporating SOS. Carry out audit co-produced with young people.	June 2019 redesign		Findings of audit report taken to CPB (Feb 2020)	Liz Curtis	Liz Curtis
	Jan 2020 audit				
Increase involvement in Children in Care Councils and Care Leaver Forums	Mar 19 new CiCC pack launched		Standing item giving update	Sue Hodkin	Sue Hodkin
Young people involved in national events			6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Sue Hodkin	Sue Hodkin
Carry out RESPECT assessment of services?	Year 2 – carry out RESPECT assessment.		Deep dive in 2020-1 (to be confirmed)	Sue Hodkin	Sue Hodkin

Corporate Parenting Principle 3: To help children looked after and care leavers gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners. (Access to services)

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead	Service Lead
Explore possibility of Council Tax relief for Foster Carers	Sept 19 scope Year 2 implementation (if applicable)	Council Plan	6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Simon Blyth	Julie Crellin
Scope possibility for transport concessions for care leavers, children looked after and foster carers	Sept 19 scope Year 2 implementation (if applicable)		6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Joel Rasbash	Phil Greenup

Corporate Parenting Principle 4: To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children looked after and care leavers. (Aspirations and outcomes)

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead	Service Lead
Deliver the actions detailed in the Children's improvement plan relating to improving work experience, apprenticeships and traineeships for care leavers; with a focus on improving the uptake.	Co-opt service lead for this area to sit on the Board (Sept 19)	Children's Improvement Plan LEP Industrial Strategy – under the Worklessness,	Updates at each Board (from Sept 19) Deep Dive (2020 to be confirmed)	Joel Rasbash	Dan Barton, Amanda Towers

	Work with FE colleagues and GEN2 and CASL post-16 group and transition post-16 (Oct 19)	Youth Unemployment and Future Workforce theme.			
Recruitment of Engagement workers around the county to add additional PA support and to link with DWP, Inspira, CYA, Apprenticeship team	Sept 19		6 month CLA Strategy report - May 20	Liz Curtis, Jane Fallon	Liz Curtis, Jane Fallon
Delivery of Virtual School Action Plan	Attainment figures published (Sept 19) Briefing Members (Nov 19)	Virtual School Plan	Updates at each Board Deep Dive (May 20)	Penny Crudge	Penny Crudge

Corporate Parenting Principle 5: For children looked after and care leavers to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work. (Safe and stable)

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead	Service Lead
Increase in-house foster carers	Increase to 200 (Mar 20)	CLA Recovery Plan Carers for Cumbria Project Plan	Standing item	Liz Curtis	Liz Curtis
Work with foster carers on using Signs of Safety			6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Liz Curtis	Liz Mckie
Support development of foster carer networks				Foster carer reps/Claire Lloyd	Liz Curtis
Develop training programme for connected people	Sept 19			Liz Curtis	Liz Curtis
Delivery of actions in relation to Child Exploitation and missing in Improvement plan	Peer Challenge (Oct 19)	Children's Improvement Plan	Invite CPB to 6 monthly Scrutiny update on CE (Dec 19)	Liz Mckie	Liz McKie
Ensure equality and diversity is embedded via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for children and families workforce and foster carers, • Participation in CiCCs and other forums • Foster carer recruitment campaign 		CCC Equality Plan	6 month CLA Strategy report (May 20, Nov 20)	Joel Rasbash	Liz Curtis Tracey Thompson

Corporate Parenting Principle 6: To prepare children looked after and care leavers for adulthood and independent living. (Preparation for adulthood).

Actions	Milestones (if applicable)	Link to other plans	Update to CPB	CPB lead	Service Lead
Delivery of the Care Leaver Offer	New online digital offer (June 19)	Be Healthy Sub-Group Plan	May 19 Update 6 month CLA Strategy report – Nov 19, May 20	Liz Curtis	Liz Curtis
	Revised Health offer online (Nov 19)			Louise Mason-Lodge	
Implement recommendations from DfE Care Leaver Champion Visit	June 19 visit and recommendations		Agree action on recommendations (July 19) Progress updates at each Board	Liz Curtis	Liz Curtis
Explore work around transition plans to adult services for relevant children looked after and care leavers	Mar 20 scope Year 2 delivery (if applicable)	Children's Improvement Plan	Deep dive (Mar 20)	Lynn Berryman	Dan Barton

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