

# Ofsted Inspection Feedback

## Corporate Parenting Board

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019



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# Key Findings - Strengths

- Effective strategic partnerships and investment in early intervention and edge of care services – supporting children to remain with their families.
- Strategic oversight and multi agency work with vulnerable children and young people at risk of exploitation.
- Improved support for care leavers is the result of leaders' focused attention.
- Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)
- CiC reported positive relationships with social workers, including children out of area.
- Good engagement with CiC means that contact and placement plans take account of their wishes and feelings and help them to maintain contact with birth families.
- High quality life-story work.



# Key Findings - Strengths

- Most children in care live in stable homes that meet their needs.
- Plans to increase the range of local foster carers is progressing well.
- Care plans reviewed in a timely manner by IROs and children well supported to engage in care planning.
- Emotional and wellbeing needs receive appropriate priority
- Social workers consider a range of permanence options for children.
- Quality of leaving care service has improved – Personal Advisors increasingly experienced - dedicated support, creative efforts, responsive Duty Service.
- Specialist workers in the Leaving Care service provide additional capacity and support.



# Key Findings – Areas for Improvement

- Children with complex needs experience too many moves before they achieve stability.
- Missed opportunities and delays in securing permanence for CiC – the impact of sequential processes.
- Social workers do not always ensure that children understand and embrace their identities and cultural heritage.
- Processes to support CiC to achieve good educational outcomes – completion and quality of Personal Education plans an issue.
- Adoption timescales – particularly the matching phase.
- Parallel planning, Fostering for Adoption are under-developed.
- Plans for children accessing post-order support not clear.



# Key Findings – Areas for Improvement

- Pathway plans are not consistently of a good enough quality.
- Children in care are introduced to Personal Advisors too late.
- Number of care leavers in education, employment or training has dipped.
- Sufficient emergency accommodation to cope with demand – care leavers in hotels and B&B.



# ACTIONS

- Placements Sufficiency – recommissioning of a D2N2 Framework by Jan 2020.
- Strategic review of accommodation needs for care leavers – linked to wider corporate Housing review.
- Development of an electronic PEP document.
- Investment in Virtual School capacity and info gathering systems to monitor progress, achievement and attainment.
- Reviewing arrangements for confirming and recording permanence decisions.
- Regional Adoption Agency went live in April 2019.
- Increasing management capacity in CiC teams and Leaving Care Team – 2 CiC teams to 3 CiC teams (plus Permanence Team) and an additional Leaving Care Manager.

