

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Approach to Development

PRINCIPLES

- The Strategy will **exclusively focus on outcomes** for LAC and Care Leavers for whom we are Corporate Parent.
- The **views of looked after children and young people and care leavers** will be an integral part of developing and delivering this Strategy.
- The best outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers can only be achieved through **effective partnership working** across agencies.
- It is acknowledged that individual agencies are subject to their own financial constraints, reporting requirements and the pressures of organisational change which result in service development activity.
- However, actions will only be included in the LAC and Care Leavers Annual Action Plan if they have a **direct impact on improving outcomes** for LAC and care leavers. Other service development activity should be addressed elsewhere.
- The multi-agency **LAC Strategy Group** will have responsibility for the activity within the Annual Action Plan.
- The **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee** has overarching responsibility for the Strategy and Action Plan.

LAC AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2015-18

- The three year strategy will set out a partnership **VISION AND PRINCIPLES** for the fulfilment of our role as Corporate Parents.
- It will outline a set of **OUTCOMES** we aspire to achieve for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire.
- Associated to each outcome will be a set of **INDICATORS** which demonstrate progress.
- The Strategy's purpose will be to establish and communicate the commitment of all agencies to improving outcomes for LAC.






LAC AND CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2015-16

- For each outcome in the Strategy, the 12 month Action Plan will identify a small number of **PRIORITY INDICATORS** for the year.
- For each priority indicator, **ACTIONS** will be designed to deliver an improvement in that indicator.
- Each outcome along with its priority indicators and actions will be owned by a member of the LAC Steering Group who will be tasked with overseeing and reporting back on progress.
- The Action Plan's purpose will be to ensure that the activity undertaken is relevant and realistic, and that it makes a measurable difference to the chosen priority indicators.

LAC and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18



Action Plan 2015-16

	Action	Measure	Owner	C&YP Views
				
				

Children and young people's views and ideas



OUTCOMES

- The outcomes in the Strategy will be fixed for the three year period.
- A good starting point for considering these outcomes is the themes in the current strategy:
 - Participation and Joining In
 - Education
 - Health
 - Safe and Stable Placements
 - Relationships
 - Identity
 - Moving to Adulthood
 - Emotional Wellbeing

SUGGESTED OUTCOMES *(wording to be considered)*

Looked after children and care leavers...

- are healthy and happy
- are safe
- achieve their potential
- are prepared for adulthood
- are listened to
- build positive relationships

INDICATORS

- Within the strategy itself, each outcome will have an associated set of indicators which help us **measure the achievement of the outcome**.
- There are many performance measures which agencies need to collect and report on which give important information about services, but this strategy will focus on measures which directly tell us something about outcomes for children and young people.
- As far as possible, the indicators should be easy to explain and meaningful to children and young people.
- Most indicators should be quantifiable and use data that is already routinely collected. This will help us track progress over time and allow us to make comparisons with outcomes for LAC elsewhere.
- Some indicators will relate directly to the views of children and young people and rely on us regularly gathering feedback to understand progress.
- Whilst it is important to be ambitious for our Looked After Children, it is also crucial that the actions planned as part of the strategy are realistic and achievable.
- Not all of the indicators in the Strategy will be included in the Annual Action Plan for the first year.
- A set of **Priority Indicators** will be chosen for each year's Annual Action Plan.

ACTION PLANNING

- Once the outcomes, indicators and priority indicators have been agreed on, each outcome will be assigned to a relevant **Outcome Owner**.
- It will be important to make sure that the Outcome Owners represent the wide range of partners with an important role to play. If they aren't already, Outcome Owners will be invited to join the LAC Strategy Group.
- Each Outcome Owner will be responsible for co-ordinating actions which lead to a measurable improvement in their priority indicators (and hence the outcome).
- It is the intention that the **focus remains on driving improvement** in the chosen priority indicators rather than on the processes around action planning.
- Outcome Owners will have the autonomy to co-ordinate their actions in the way they find most helpful, but also accountability for driving improvement in their priority indicators.
- Once a quarter the LAC Strategy Group will review progress against the priority indicators and Outcome Owners will report back on actions undertaken.
- After 12 months, all of the indicators in the Strategy will be reviewed and the next year's set of priority indicators will be chosen.

LAC STRATEGY GROUP MEETING: 25th FEBRUARY 2015

1. Agree approach set out here
2. Agree a set of **OUTCOMES** for inclusion in the Strategy
3. Identify a set of potential **INDICATORS** for each outcome
4. Agree process for selecting **PRIORITY INDICATORS** (who has the final decision?)
5. Identify potential a **OUTCOME OWNER** for each outcome

NEXT STEPS

1. Once **OUTCOMES** and **INDICATORS** confirmed, draft the Strategy document
2. Final agreement of **PRIORITY INDICATORS** and **OUTCOME OWNERS**
3. Meet with **OUTCOME OWNERS** and establish process for action planning