

Help and Protection for Children and Young People
Their experiences and progress

Our Strengths

- 28.5% improvement in the timeliness of assessments since the introduction of the new framework
- Well embedded Early Help Assessment Team
- Additional investment in Contact and Referral Team (CART) Social Worker Resource
- Partner agencies co-located completing phase 1 of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Multi-Agency CSE team co-located to support MASH
- Partners trained and utilising threshold descriptors
- Threshold descriptors developed for CSE
- Graded care profile model for neglect cases agreed and in use
- All newly qualified social workers supported by dedicated Social Work Practice Consultant through ASYE vacancy rate at 4% compared to 8% regionally and 14% nationally
- Low agency rate 3%
- 82% of children's centres graded good or outstanding
- Strong Family Recovery Programme and additional support for Troubled Families (Families for Change)
- Early Help Dashboard developed to support Performance Management

Priorities

- Further embed the voice of the child
- Develop, align and integrate processes for MASH – Phase 2
- Establish feasibility of a single view of a child ICT solution
- Ensure appropriate engagement and response to the emerging needs of minority communities
- Ensure all relevant children have a CIN plan review every 8 weeks
- Evaluate the impact of Early Help provision
- Continuous review of caseload sizes

Children Looked After
Their experiences and progress

Our Strengths

- Looked after children numbers remain stable
- Strong Corporate Parenting Panel
- In-house fostering placements increased from 146 in Dec 13 to 186 in July 14
- Increased placement choice
- Regional commissioning frameworks developed for out of authority placements
- Regular consultation with Looked After Children (LAC) Council
- Embedded LAC and Adopted Children Support & Therapeutic Team
 - Children's Homes improved 3 out of 5 rated 'Good'.
 - 96.92% attendance rate for primary school pupils
 - No permanent school exclusions
 - Fostering plus scheme developed and first carers approved

Priorities

- Continued focus on LAC strategy priorities including
 - Placement stability and permanence
 - Educational achievement for LAC
 - Emotional wellbeing and physical health
- Ensure all children and young people have a quality PEP, reviewed termly
- Increase the number of children who have health and dental assessment
- Further reduce the number of out of authority placements
- Continue development of our Fostering Plus scheme to increase adolescent in-borough placements
- Develop further supported lodgings so that more young people will be able to "stay put"
- Work with courts to improve completion rates for care proceedings within 26 weeks to fully implement Public Law Outline (PLO)

'Working together to improve the lives of all Rotherham's children and young people'

Our CYPP Priorities are:

- Ensuring children have the best start in life
- Engaging with parents and families
- Reducing the harm to children and young people who are exposed to domestic abuse, alcohol/substance misuse and neglect
- Focusing on all children and young people making good progress in their learning and development
- Targeting support to families in greatest need to help access learning/employment opportunities
- Working across the partnership to eradicate child sexual exploitation

Adoption
Seeking permanence

Our Strengths

- Year on year increase in children adopted; 36 in 2013/14
- Increase in adoptions for traditionally difficult to place children
- Reduced the number of days between children entering care and placement with adopters from 634 to 453 days
- Reduced the timescale between placement order and matching decision from 284 to 183 days in the last 6 months of 2013/14
- Children leaving care via adoption has increased from 21% to 27.69% since 2012/13 which is higher than the national average
- Adoption Team capacity increased
- Created Dedicated Family Finding Team
- Established fostering to adopt service
- Increase in the number of approved adopters from 18 in 2012/13 to 31 in 2013/14
- Increased the provision of adoptive families for our neighbouring authorities
- Increased regional working within the Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium

Priorities

- Improve the timeliness of stage one adopter assessments
- Continue with our Adoption Activity days in partnership with our Adoption Consortium to find placements for harder to place children
- Continue to reduce the time between children entering care and placement
- Continue to improve the timeliness for children between their placement order and matching decision
- Further improve our capture of the views of children
- By March 2015 meet our target to increase the number of adoptive families by 42

Care Leavers
Their experiences and progress

Our Strengths

- 96.3% of care leavers are suitably housed
- Effective use of management information to drive improvements in practice
- Newly integrated care leaver service resulting in fewer changes of social worker and continuity of care
- Joined up management oversight of LAC and leaving care
- Better management oversight and the ability to consistently carry out monthly staff supervision
- Managers are positive about the changes and have high aspiration for LAC and Leaving care children and young people

Priorities

- Increase the number of young people who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET)
- Strengthen support for and opportunities open to care leavers
- Continue to develop the role of the Virtual Head and Virtual School to improving attainment, aspiration and engagement of care leavers in EET
- Ensure Risk Assessments are consistent and linked to care plans
- Further improve the quality of assessment, recording and care planning for children

Our Strengths

- Strong political and organisational commitment to the children's agenda
- Lead member and Chief Executive lead children's issues at a regional level
- Qualified, stable and committed frontline workforce, appropriately trained with strong CPD opportunities
- Commitment to transparency (Jay report)
- Increasingly visible, challenging Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) with effective Independent Chair
- Effective partnership working
- Continue to develop links between corporate parenting, Rotherham local safeguarding board and Health and Well Being Board
- Protection of front line service safeguarding budgets
- Clear Strategies for Change
- Strong corporate parenting function
- Views of young people used to inform practice

Leadership, Management and Governance
An effective strategy for services that make a difference

Priorities

- Commitment to implementing all recommendations from the Jay report
- Strengthen scrutiny arrangements
- Continue to develop LSCB through establishment of executive group
- Continued development of partnership strategies across key priorities
- Continue to develop and embed the Performance Management Framework
- Develop and improve the case recording system (CCM)