

Children and Young People

Summary of Key Priorities 2019-20



‘The aim of our service is to work together to provide creative and seamless support to enable safety and opportunity’

Values and behaviours

Relationships are respectful and empowering

This means:

- We respect everyone’s perspective and views, and we listen to understand, not just to respond.
- We are flexible and adaptable. We do things in a way that works for the people we work with.
- We are honest and open.

Children are at the centre of what we do

This means:

- We really try to understand a child’s experience, and what life is like for them.
- We always involve children in decisions that affect them.
- We are consistent and dependable. We follow through, and do what we say we will do.
- Spending time with children is important. We make time for this.

We have high aspirations and high expectations

This means:

- We identify people’s strengths and build on these. We notice things that have gone well.
- We are clear about what we expect from each other, and we are accountable for what we say we will do.
- We encourage and motivate others to keep going, achieve, and be their best.

Principal Social Work

- Support migration to Eclipse whilst ensuring we have continued performance information and a fit for purpose electronic recording system
- Demonstrate impact of Quality Assurance and performance management information on services provided to children and young people to meet their assessed needs.
- Work with all children and young people forums to develop a model which will promote a more consistent approach to co-production
- Work with the Department for Education and Future Social to implement the National Accreditation and **Assessment System locally and enable 30% of the children’s workforce to complete the programme**
- Improve the retention of social work staff.
- Continue to embed a restorative approach across children and young people’s service to ensure a relational way of working to help families achieve better outcomes.

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

- Implement trauma informed practice across the YOT to support young people effected by trauma.
- Increase the participation of YOT young people by ensuring their views are heard and used to shape future service provision.
- Increase victim contact and engagement in the Restorative Justice process.
- Implementation of Child First, Offender second approach in community referral order panels to reduce the criminalisation of children and young people in care and care leavers.
- Ensure coordination of the partnership response to gangs and youth violence across the City.
- Develop a non-statutory ‘prevention’ offer within the YOT to reduce the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.

SPECIALIST SUPPORT

- Increase the use and engagement with family group conferencing to prevent family breakdown and reduce reliance on services. Use family group conferencing as an alternative to initial conference where safe to do so.
- Develop and expand the use of the Connecting Families Hub to generate income.
- Embed new in-house assessment children’s home to reduce number of young people in external residential.
- Review the existing MASE process with a view to addressing exploitation in its broadest sense.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

- Early identification of vulnerable children likely to be subject to public law procedures to ensure clear plans in respect of early permanence
- Ensure good practice is maintained with the implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency
- Develop pre-proceedings processes to include multi-agency input
- Support families in a timely manner bringing in relevant and appropriate services where required.
- Ensure we produce timely robust assessments requiring social care intervention
- Produce good quality plans
- Develop an NRPF Team that provides robust, consistent assessments to appropriately support families.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

- Improve opportunities for children and young people to live with carers approved City of Wolverhampton Council to enhance opportunity and support the stability of placements.
- Ensure we have the right young people in care ensuring permanence is secured in a timely manner.
- Improve training and employment opportunities for 16 – 18-year olds children and young people in care, care leavers and young people involved in the youth justice system.
- Improve the integrated approach of assessment and planning for children with disabilities and SEN.
- Ensure children and young people are supported to live in suitable placements or accommodation that meets

CHILDREN’S IMPROVEMENT

- Improve the short break offer for children with disabilities across the City.
- Strengthen the emotional wellbeing and therapeutic support services available for children and young people in care
- Ensure Sufficiency and Quality of placement for children and young people in care
- Achieve Payment by Results target for troubled families
- Continue the successful delivery of the Troubled Families Programme in order to keep children safe and achieve positive outcomes as measured by the maturity matrix.
- To develop exit plan to ensure the continuation of high impact areas from troubled families programme e.g. data sharing
- Develop a sustainability plan that embeds and continues good practice evidenced through the headstart programme
- Ensure effective engagement with national local evaluation to develop an evidence base for what works in supporting children’s emotional health and wellbeing.
- Engage MASH partners to improve understanding of thresholds and appropriate referrals with their agency
- Improve transparency of decision making within MASH and communication with partners
- Review MASH structures to ensure effective working across the partnership
- Review and deliver positive engagement strategy for young people

INCLUSION SUPPORT

- To reduce the % of children and young people being excluded from schools or otherwise being removed from school roles.
- Improve educational engagement and attainment for children and young people in care, care leavers and young people involved in the youth justice system.
- Set up a Specialist Multi Agency Team to use Trauma Informed Practice to support young people at risk of exploitation.

SAFEGUARDING

- Ensure Outline Child Protection plans developed are good quality
- Implement Working Together 2018 implications for Safeguarding Board
- Develop a governance and delivery framework for the implementation of contextual safeguarding’
- Prepare for the change in law, from DOLS to Liberty Protection Safeguards, which will now include those 16-17 year olds, in need of authorised assessments to protect their liberty.