

	<b>TIME FOR CHANGE</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>	<b>WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>FUTURE</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING: GETTING IT RIGHT</b>			
1.1	Every local authority to put in place arrangements for a 'Children in Care Council', with direct links to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) P4	Advisory Panel established for some time but does not meet all of this requirement	Strengthen Advisory Panel and establish clear arrangements for maintaining contact with our LAC	Annual Review by Multi-agency Looked After Children Partnership (MALAP)
1.2	Expecting every local authority to set out its 'Pledge' to children in care P5	Corporate Carers Guarantee already in place	Consult with LAC in revising corporate carers guarantee to include the recommended basic elements of the care pledge	Annual Review by MALAP
1.3	Making clear that the DCS and LMCS should be responsible for leading improvements in corporate parenting P5	MALAP Executive reports to DCS and LMCS. Separate Corporate Carers Group	Governance of these groups to be synchronised with clear arrangements for accountability	Annual Review by MALAP
1.4	Disseminating Government-funded corporate parenting training materials, developed by the National Children's Bureau, to help authorities to ensure that effective arrangements are in place locally P5	Total Respect training has been implemented and is continuing	Use these materials to review our arrangements	Annual Review by MALAP

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<b>2.0</b>	<b>FAMILY AND PARENTING SUPPORT</b>			
2.1	Asking all local authorities to analyse the profile of their children in care population P6	ESCR is being developed to better support the provision of this information, together with other local authority Geographical Information Systems to set this in a wider context	The implementation of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) is expected to enable improved aggregation of information on individual children in order to profile the care population	Upgrade of Siebel IT system will enable single data entry function from March 2008. This will facilitate qualitative reporting
2.2	Develop improved access to short term breaks for disabled children P6	Family Placement Scheme applying for the announced funding to increase capacity by two professional short breaks carers. Plans well advanced for reprovision of residential short breaks facility. Interagency Programme Manager recently in post to support this and related developments for disabled children	Complete / update review of need for and provision of short breaks services. Ensure this takes account of health and education needs and provision. Recruit carers and staff	Increase capacity
2.3	Develop a new framework for family and friends care P5,6	Two development staff in new posts as part of plan to set up Kinship Care and Support Service ( KASS )	As part of the broader review of access to care placements. Put in place a 'gateway approach' to family and friends care to make sure that it is considered as an option at each stage of decision-making	KASS Team established
2.4	Effective care planning to ensure continuing work with birth parents to support LAC for a safe return home where possible P6	This is existing best practice and a high priority for Social Care and its partners (and already closely aligned with work on preventing children from becoming Looked After)	Continue to work with partners to further develop the range of family support services available. Learn from pilot of Budget Holding Lead Professionals for LAC. Use new care planning guidance from DCSF to revise procedures	Monitor, review, plan further improvement

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<b>3.0</b>	<b>CARE PLACEMENTS: A BETTER EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE</b>			
3.1	A duty to : 1 complete a high-level needs assessment to inform local authority strategy and planning 2 secure a sufficient and diverse provision of quality placements within the local authority area. P7	Following on from our Residential Review, the Fostering and Adoption Services Review will complete such a needs assessment and initiate robust commissioning practices through the newly established commissioning capacity	The information recorded about the needs of individual children within the ICS is used to provide aggregated information about their local population of children in need, including children in care.	Better management information readily available. Monitor, review, revise commissioning arrangements
3.2	Strengthening the statutory framework so that a local authority cannot place a child out of their local area unless it is satisfied that such a placement is in the child's best interests P7	Leeds is already a very low user of out of city placements and LAC placed outside of Leeds for specialist placements or with extended family. Rigorous inter-agency approval process already in place.	Complete audit to ensure that the reason for outside placement complies with new framework. Use framework to revise and implement procedures	Improved commissioning processes will secure wider choice of placements within Leeds
3.3	Improving foster care by setting clear standards outlining the skills that all foster carers should have and increasing access to specialist training and support P7	Review of foster care training undertaken including induction, skills development, and the new children's services. Supports the Fostering Changes programme and the rolling out of Payment for Skills in October 2007	Monitor numbers of carers who have received training	Monitoring of programme
3.4	Revising the National Minimum Standards in foster and residential care by 2009 and ensuring better enforcement of these standards P7,8	There are areas in our provision where we exceed the minimum standards, areas where we only meet the minimum requirements (such as by the employment of agency staff - as a result of the Residential Review we are actively recruiting for additional posts), and areas we are addressing which were not satisfactory in the CSCI and now Ofsted inspections	Commissioning process to take account of current position and the forthcoming revision	Monitor through MALAP

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3.5	Introducing an explicit requirement for all children in care to be visited by their social worker regardless of their placement type including those children who were voluntarily accommodated immediately before entering custody and disabled children in long term residential placements P8	This is already expected best practice	Revise procedures to clarify this requirement  Review multiagency policy and procedures on long term residential placements	Monitor (both through line management and statutory reviews of LAC)

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<b>4.0</b>	<b>DELIVERING A FIRST CLASS EDUCATION</b>			
4.1	Introducing an expectation that local authorities will arrange appropriate high quality early years provision for children in care under five P8	Already provided and the current implementation of the new Early Years PEP will strengthen this	Review	Monitor through MALAP
4.2	Giving children in care the highest priority in school admission arrangements P8	Already council policy and all our LAC are getting their first choice of school	Review	Monitor through MALAP
4.3	Children in care must not be moved during Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11), except in exceptional circumstances P9	Proposal regarded as best practice and now largely followed	Await definition of exceptional circumstances	Monitor through MALAP
4.4	The cost of transport, including for disabled children who may face particular transport barriers, should not act as a barrier to children in care remaining in a school placement and where necessary the local authority should provide free school transport. As above : detailed in White Paper P69	Transport already provided	Review shared budget arrangements	Follow up
4.5	The role of the designated teacher will be statutory P9	Training of designated teachers regularly undertaken by Education Protects Team. Virtual Head Teacher will strengthen the role	DCSF further supporting this through training and statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities	Monitor through MALAP
4.6	Provide £500 a year for each child in care at risk of not reaching the expected standards to personalise their learning and support their educational and developmental needs P9	Assistance with individual needs is met where possible	Grant commences 2008. Provide clear guidance on its availability and use	Monitor use of this grant through MALAP

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4.7	Improving support for reducing school absence and exclusion. Provision should be arranged from the first day of an exclusion to ensure that they do not suffer from a break in their education P9	Already supported in our procedures and the application of "First Day Cover" by Education Leeds. Schools arrange for work to be given to carers to supervise with child for first five days, then school arranges F/T provision	Monitor	Monitor through MALAP
4.8	Piloting role of the Virtual School Head P9	Alun Rees already in place in this role	Review	Monitor through MALAP

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<b>5.0</b>	<b>PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>			
5.1	Schools to ensure that children in care are eligible for free access to a varied menu of activities before and after school P10,11	MALAP Executive to progress	When it becomes available from Government, apply for funding to enable children in care to access two hours a week of extended school group activity, and two weeks of holiday provision free of charge.	Monitor through MALAP
5.2	Ensuring that the individuals in daily contact with children and young people in care are better able to provide sex and relationship education P10	SRE well supported by recent Personal Relationships, Sexual Health and Sexuality policy and guidance	Resource the implementation of the Healthy Care Standards as agreed by the MALAP. SRE guidance for foster carers to be provided by DCSF.	Monitor through MALAP
5.3	Transforming the availability of positive activities for children and young people in care, including free part time access to extended activities, free music tuition in schools and priority status for children in care within local authority youth work P10,11	MAX Card provided. There is currently no free access to LCC leisure provision or music tuition. The DCS is talking to Leisure Services about this requirement	DCS to lead on the implementation of this transformation.	Monitor through MALAP
5.4	Ensuring that leisure activities form a key part of care planning and that children and young people are well supported in getting involved in these activities P11	Best practice	Continued monitoring by Independent Reviewing Officers of the identification of leisure activities in care planning and of the support for our LAC in accessing them	Monitor through MALAP
5.5	New responsibility on DCS to ensure that LAC participate equally in positive activities along with their peers P11	Best practice	Monitoring by IROs	Monitor through MALAP

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<b>6.0</b>	<b>TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD</b>			
6.1	Piloting ways to enable young people to remain with their foster carers up to the age of 21 P12	LAC usually move on earlier	Review information from the pilots and plan for this (which will involve support to and training of carers and provision of appropriate fees to carers)	Implementation
6.2	Preventing local authorities from discharging young people prematurely from their care placements until they are properly prepared and ready to move on to the next stage of their lives P11,12	This is already the aim of Children and Young Persons Social Care but is not always available because of pressure on the number of placements	Audit numbers of older LAC enabled to remain in their placements beyond 16 – 18. Work with Children’s Services partners in strengthening the support to such young people and their placements. Revise and implement procedures	Monitor through MALAP
6.3	Expecting to local authorities to consider, when developing their pledge to children in care, what employment opportunities with training they and their partners can offer young people P12	Corporate Carers Guarantee already includes investigating the feasibility of proposals for a Job Guarantee scheme within the Council and with other partners	Update in revision of Corporate Carers Guarantee	Annual reviews
6.4	Extending the entitlement to the support of a personal advisor up to the age of 25 for all care leavers who are either in education or wish to return to education P12	Currently 21 years	Pathway Management Board to plan for this	Monitor through MALAP
6.5	Local authorities to provide a minimum of £2,000 for all young people in care who go on to University P121	LCC already committed to substantially funding several young people in HE every year. We pay at the top end of the wide variation in LA funding	National bursary available from April 2008	Monitor through MALAP
6.6	Provide, in the child’s trust fund, £100 per year for every child who spends the year in care: White Paper P121	No funding from central government available	Available from April 2008. Clear processes to be established for administering	Monitor through MALAP



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<b>7.0</b>	<b>THE ROLE OF THE PRACTITIONER</b>			
7.1	Improving the skills and training of social workers to ensure that they have sufficient expertise in child development and to set their role in the context of the children's services reforms initiated by Every Child Matters P13	Induction programme for all new social workers is based on the Children's Workforce Development Council standards. Child development programmes are delivered as part of the Post Qualifying training	'Newly Qualified Social Worker' status being introduced by DCSF	Implement
7.2	Reviewing and strengthening the independence of Independent Reviewing Officers p13	Independent Reviewing Officer Team well established and providing high quality service	Funding for additional posts available. Determine the best governance arrangements to support independence	Monitor through MALAP
7.3	Ensuring that <u>all</u> children in care who need them have access to independent visitors, and, when making a complaint, to independent advocates P13	Well developed IV scheme in place with about 50 volunteers. Recent increase in staffing means capacity building is starting. LAC are aware of the Children's Rights Service	Further 25 volunteers recruited	Further capacity building