

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR

Health & Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Friday 1 August 2014

3.00 pm

The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford

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8. HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT 2014	3 - 12
Readiness to Implement Children and Families Act 2014 presentation	

Readiness to Implement Children and Families Act 2014



Children with SEN and Disabilities

Ed Edwards
SEN and Disability Implementation
Manager



Key Elements of C+F Act

- Wellbeing Duty
- Local Offer
- Information, Advice and Support
- SEN Support (Best Endeavours Duty)
- Transitional Arrangements Planning
- EHC Assessment and Planning
- Personal Budgets
- Mediation
- Joint Commissioning



Wellbeing Duty

- Duty to work with children, young people and parents to improve outcomes
- Ongoing process to deliver cultural and procedural change



Local Offer

- New statutory duty to publish LA Local Offer
- Initial Local Offer in place
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/local-offer>
- Will require development and improvement over time



Information, Advice and Support

- Independent IAG including independent supporters
- Parent Partnership now SENDIASS (SEN and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service)



SEN Support (Best Endeavours Duty)

- Duty on early years settings, schools and FE
- LA responsibility to reassure themselves that settings are aware of their duty



Transitional Arrangements Planning

- Plan re. conversion to be published by 1st September 2014



EHC Assessment and Planning

- EHC Plan template in place
- Impact of young person 'owning' EHC Plan from 16 unclear



Personal Budgets

- Separated in Code of Practice into
 - Education
 - Social Care
 - Health
- Education approach in place, Social Care and Health in development



Mediation

- New compulsory requirement for mediation including Social Care and Health (LA to fund education and care).
- West Midlands tender with Herefordshire leading.
- Increase in appeals to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Tribunal (SENDIST) predicted with extension to include FE/19-25 and appeals against 2010 Equality Act.



Joint Commissioning

- Requirement for LA and CCG to work together at a strategic level
- Includes requirement for internal dispute resolution
- In development



Adoption

Jo King – Head of Looked After
Children

Hilary Hale – Adoption Service
Manager



Key Elements

- A duty on local authorities looking after a child to consider placing the child in a 'Fostering for Adoption' placement where they are considering adoption.
- 26 week limit on care proceedings to prevent 'drift' for children.
- Removal of the requirement to give due consideration to a child's ethnicity when choosing an adoption placement.
- Personal budgets to enable adoptive families to secure adoption support themselves. Duty to provide information about such services in the area.
- Direct access to the national Adoption Register for approved prospective adopters to enable them to identify a child to adopt.



Current Position in Herefordshire

- Fostering to adopt discussed in information and preparation training for prospective adopters.
- 26 week limit in care proceedings met in the majority of cases
- Child's ethnicity is considered as part of a child's holistic needs.
- Personal budgets for adoption support not yet being considered; pilots underway in 10 local authorities
- Direct access to Adoption Register yet to be piloted nationally.



Aims moving forwards

- Raise awareness regarding fostering for adoption and recruit and prepare adopters willing to undertake this role.
- Achieve 26 week completion of care proceedings in all cases with exceptional circumstances.
- To recruit prospective adopters from the widest possible range of backgrounds to meet the holistic needs of children needing adoptive placements.
- To provide access to a range of evidence based adoption support services.



Challenges around this being Achieved

- Marketing and recruitment and training and support required to promote Fostering to Adopt with prospective adopters, birth families and their representatives and the courts.
- Social worker capacity to complete required processes and care proceedings within 26 weeks.
- Seriously complex cases where on exceptional circumstances we have to enlist expert assessment which can knock the 26 week target out.
- Capacity to market, recruit, train and assess prospective adopters
- Access to effective therapeutic interventions for adopted children, particularly in their adolescence.



