

# Actions in response to Ofsted Focussed Visit - July 2021

# Build on strengths identified

- Continue to embed the Signs of Safety Practice Framework
- Continue to implement the current, successful workforce strategy to ensure we continue to have a high quality, highly skilled social care workforce who choose to remain working in Durham
- Continued focus on ensuring every child has a good quality care plan which they understand and which makes a difference to them and improves their life
- Continued focus on supporting managers to provide high quality reflective supervision to their staff which supports good planning for children

# Quality of plans for minority of children living with connected persons

- Resolve current arrangements through existing legal processes
- Training and awareness raising with social workers, managers, legal colleagues, CAFCAS and Judiciary
- Audit of assessments and decision making relating to connected carers
- Peer review

# Sufficiency of placements for children in care

- Deliver on key actions within the Sufficiency Strategy 2018 / 2021  
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/19179/Sufficiency-and-Commissioning-Strategy-for-Looked-After-Children-and-Care-Leavers>
- Foster care recruitment campaign
- Focus on ensuring high quality support and training for carers to support high levels of retention including 'Mockingbird' model
- Work with regional colleagues to review and re procure the contract for Independent Fostering Agencies – March 2022
- Open new children's homes: Edge of care home; 4 x 2 bed and 3 x 3 bed (2021-25)
- Develop and deliver a workforce strategy dedicated to residential services
- Work with private providers locally to develop the 'Durham First' approach

# Quality of assessments for young people living in supported accommodation

- Ensure up to date assessments for all young people living in supported living arrangements – November 2021
- Senior manager to chair panel to oversee these arrangements
- Work with commissioning colleagues to increase number and choice of options for young people – March 2022
- Work with Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure robust oversight of these arrangements