

Government response to the Children's Social Care Review and Child
Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Review – An overview

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26th April 2023

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Children's Social Care National Framework

A government consultation on principles
for practice, expected outcomes and
indicators: statutory guidance

Launch date 2 February 2023
Respond by 11 May 2023

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Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation

Children's Social Care Reform 2023

February 2023

Child and Family Social Worker Workforce

Government consultation

Launch date: 2 February 2023
Respond by: 11 May 2023

“Stable Homes, Built on Love” strategy written around 6 pillars

- **Family Help provides the right support at the right time so that children can thrive with their families** – 12 Families First for Children Pathfinders - £45 million
- **A decisive multi-agency child protection system** – Child Protection Lead Practitioner role and co-located multi-agency teams with responsibility for child protection. Includes strengthening of Contextualised Safeguarding
- **Unlocking the potential of family networks** – National Kinship Care Strategy
- **Putting love, relationships and a stable home at the heart of being a child in care** – 6 missions
- **A valued, supported and highly-skilled social worker for every child who needs one** – 5 year early career framework
- **A system that continuously learns and improves, and makes better use of evidence and data** – Children’s Social Care National Framework

Children's Social Care National Framework

- **Five key principles**
- **Four outcomes that enable children to thrive**
- **Two system level enables the help children's social care thrive**
 - **The workforce is equipped and effective**
 - **Leaders drive conditions for effective practice**
- **Proposed data set of key indicators**

Child and Family Social Worker Workforce

- **Proposes 8 national rules:**
 - **Engage agency workers only via commercial compliant procurement routes;**
 - **Only engage agency workers within national price caps;**
 - **Minimum of five years post-qualified experience in LA children's social care and completion of ASYE to qualify for agency role;**
 - **Not engage project teams for social work;**
 - **Standard references for all candidates that relates to standard of practice for any agency worker;**
 - **Three month wait for workers leaving substantive roles before taking agency role in same region;**
 - **Minimum six week notice period for agency social workers;**
 - **Quarterly data return.**

Current position

- **System wide approach is welcomed – funding remains unclear**
- **Durham CSC very strong position to respond**
 - **Strong practice framework (Signs of Safety)**
 - **Strong partnerships and well established Early Help Service**
 - **Well established ASYE academy and workforce offer**
 - **Comprehensive sufficiency strategy**
 - **Part of regional Fostering pathfinder**
- **A genuine opportunity to influence the system at a national level**