

Children Looked After Strategic Partnership (CLASP) Update

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What we have achieved

- Priority 1)** Ensure good multi-agency partnership work and integrated governance to meet the needs of our Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
- We have reviewed the language in the governance documents of each working group and ensured a common language is applied.
 - The partnership reshared the Philomena protocol and training guide. This will be the subject of further audit work in 2024 to understand the impact.
- Priority 2)** We will develop services which are focused on providing high quality support to enable children and young people to remain at home with their families, or return to their families, where it is safe to do so.
- Development of Edge of Care Provision to prevent children entering into care and improve on placement stability.
 - Introduced a model of working to track and achieve permanence. Permanence Monitoring Group (PMG) has been operational since December 2023.
 - Share with the partnership the Care Leavers Inspection Framework. Inspection completed and feedback letter received 12th January
 - Emotional Mental Health Audit completed. Actions set and triangulation from Health, Education and Social Care required to ensure these have impact. These will inform the 2024 workplan.
- Priority 3)** Sufficiency of Placements and Placement Stability is important for our children and young people. We want to ensure there are enough high-quality placements to meet their diverse needs and to ensure that young people have a choice where this is appropriate.
- Launch of the Sufficiency Board has supported CLASP to have a clear area of focus moving in to 2024.
 - Performance and data is shared with the partnership and reviewed bi-monthly.
 - Audit findings on “New Chapter meetings” (Placement Disruption Meeting) will be shared January 2024.
 - Continued work with the Regional Fostering Pathfinder Project. This has been very successful. Impact to be reviewed in March 2024.
- Priority 4)** Promoting Early Permanence is a key priority for us, we want to ensure that children are moved into their permanent placement or adoptive placement as quickly as possible once this has been agreed as the appropriate plan.
- Regional Adoption Agency working group has been set up and will report into CLASP findings and areas for development moving into 2024.

What we have achieved

- Priority 5)** Durham County Council and its partners will develop a 'local offer' for our care leavers and provide them with advice and support from a personal advisor until they are 25 years old.
- The Local Offer priority has been achieved. We offer support to young people to 25+. This priority will be reviewed for in 2024 workplan to look at areas we can further develop and strengthen.
- Priority 6)** We will work to ensure the right services are in place to meet the health and wellbeing needs of our children and young people.
- Focus on the completion of Health Passports. This has been an increase in referrals and tracking of the timeliness.
 - Focus on the completion of Health Assessment. We continue to see this area of focus improvement and part of the workplan for 2024.
- Priority 7)** We will continue to work with our children and young people to ensure they have opportunities to access good education, employment and training to achieve their full potential.
- Education Subgroup established. This has been set up by the virtual school and Durham Works. As we move into 2024, impact will be shared in CLASP and Corporate Parenting from the Virtual Head as chair.
 - NEET clinics established as a focus from the Practice Lead, in Childrens Social Care to track our young people's educations attainment. Performance is shared in CLASP bi-monthly.
- Priority 8)** The engagement and influence of children and young people is a key priority across Durham County Council.
- Opening of the 2nd Care Leavers Hub.
 - Launch of the Know What When Book.
 - The Experts by Experience group is established, and first area of enquiry has commenced.
 - Launched the Prison support pilot and will expand on this further in 2024.

Next Steps for 2024



- Review of the governance documents and priority actions and workplan for 2024.
- Feedback on Care Leavers Inspection.
- Evaluate the newly formed education subgroups and measure the impact for children and young people.
- Expand the membership of CLASP to include Regional Adoption Agency Strategic Manager to focus on early permanence.
- Placement Stability Audit work to feed into the 2024 next steps Priority Actions Plan.
- Undertake a development session with CLASP members to establish an Impact Framework to measure success.