CHILDREN'S SERVICES – FIT FOR THE FUTURE RIGHT CHILDREN, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT AMOUNT OF TIME

1.0 Who are the children in scope?

WHO FOR?

WHAT IS IMPORTANT

WHAT WILL WE DO?

Children who are vulnerable

Children fixed term or permanent excluded, childre on part time timetables and children missing education Vulnerable groups e.g.
Children with SEND, young

- Children living in poverty

Children in need, at risk & on the edge of care Circa 2000

Already in the statutory CSC system but not yet in care

- Children receiving targeted
- Children in need
- Children on a child protection
- Children on a youth justice

Children Looked After

Circa 640

In the care of the local authority

- Residential home
- Foster care
- Awaiting adoption

Care Leavers

Circa 170

Young people that have been in the care and are now transitioning to adulthood

- Spend is dominated by the demands of children who are looked after circa £23 million
- Activity has long been centred on the crisis end of the spectrum and reactive in nature
- We need to get better at tackling the root causes of neglect and abuse, which are the dominant reasons for children becoming looked after
- More resources will not transform the landscape if they are simply misdirected into a system not focused on root causes of the problems

2.0 Our transformation principles

- Get the basics right for our children; a common sense approach that reduces bureaucracy, unnecessary and unhelpful processes
- Strong leadership informed by 'what works' setting our direction
- Mirror the lives and challenges of real families whole system transformation because children and families don't fit neatly into directorates / teams and extend our work with children and families beyond a 9-5 and Monday to Friday mind set
- Implement change that works for Walsall children and families and underpinned by evidence— not a 'lift and shift' from other local authorities
- Prioritise the stability of children in all aspects of their life; design out 'hand off', 'handover' 'pass on' and what 'doesn't work' for children and families
- Develop a culture of being proud of what we achieve by having a relentless focus on quality, impact and outcomes (not outputs)

3.0 Transformation Programme

Intended to reduce the circumstances which lead to children requiring a child protection response in the first place – demand management that will lead to sustainable change not one that rations services even more tightly as budgets shrink.

Reorientation of Children's Services so we explicitly set out to reduce the need for statutory intervention by building on the capacity of those around the Child to support them.

Three Work streams

1. Prevention

- Better demand management proactive planning and aligning resources to projected need and demand
- Understanding and connecting with our communities
- Evidenced informed response to our children at risk of becoming looked after and better support to enable children to go home where it is safe to do so Developing and embedding relationship based best practice

2. Restorative Practice

- Develop restorative whole system leadership and accountability
- Develop a skilled and stable restorative workforce
- Develop and embed the use of a restorative toolkit and services
- Whole system restorative communication

3. Commissioning

Review our commissioning intentions, priorities and approach to deliver greater value for money and better outcomes for children and families

Shift from micro commissioning / contract compliance to more strategic /corporate / joint commissioning arrangements that ensures greatest impact

Four Cross Cutting Themes

Culture

Governance and Structure

Partnerships (Internal and external) Finance and performance

Impact / Outcomes

Children will tell us:

- I am protected from harm, exploitation (sexual and criminal) and radicalisation
- Professionals understand my circumstances and know me and my family well
- I am not unnecessarily criminalised
- I am listened to and actively involved in decisions professionals take about my life
- My family and I do not live in poverty, we are not hungry
- We have a home and environment that is affordable, warm and safe
- I am supported to grow and develop and be resilient
- Education builds my confidence and prepares me, not just for exam success and the world of work, but also for independency and adulthood

Impact from a service point of view

- More children in full time education and less exclusions
- Reduction in reactive demand through our 'front door'
- Reduction of children on a child protection plan
- Less children coming back for support following children's services ending support
- Reduction of children who need to come into the care of the local authority
- Placement stability for our children who need to be looked after
- Reduction of children getting involved with crime
- Less complaints, more compliments
- Reduction in service costs
- Stable permanent workforce who feel proud working for Walsall

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL WE MAKE?

Dependencies

ASC – synergies with commissioning and locality working

Workforce – synergies between restorative practice and behaviours / skilled and stable workforce /recruitment and retention

Assets – place based locality working

Insight – work aligns to commissioning strand