

# **LAC 16+/Youth Homelessness**

**Action Plan 2014-2017**

**March 2016**

What do we plan to do about it to improve the situation	How will we do this	Who will take the lead	When will it be done by	How will we know if we have been successful?  Data sources/indicators
<p><b>1.0</b> We will strive to ensure that the health and wellbeing needs of looked after children are identified and responded to in partnership with them and their carers, and that health assessments and plans informs inter-agency care plans</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Regional guidance, standards and documentation to support looked after children health assessments and plans are developed and implemented</p>	<p>Emily Roberts- PHA</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Guidance completed and distributed.</p> <p>Child Health System data will be available following software development.</p>
	<p><b>1.2</b> Looked after children contribute to and have access to their health plan in an age appropriate manner</p>	<p>Emily Roberts-PHA</p>	<p>September 2016</p>	<p>Qualitative evaluation of 'about me' in partnership with LAC Nurses and care experienced young people.</p>
	<p><b>1.3</b> A health and wellbeing perspective is included in preparation and education programmes available for those caring for looked after children</p>	<p>Emily Roberts- PHA</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Considered as completed by LAC Health sub group/ RAFT.</p>

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<p><b>2.0</b> Facilitate and support staff to embed a culture of high aspirations for Looked After Children that will proactively encourage and advocate for looked after children / young people throughout their educational experiences.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Monitor progress of implementation of PEP across the region</p>	<p>Being taken forward by Education Authority</p> <p>Reference points will be- OECD report will contribute.</p> <p>ETI inspection report into PEP</p>		<p>Statistics on preparation of PEP's is manually collated by Trusts. This could provide baseline data.</p> <p>In September this moves to EA</p>
	<p><b>2.2</b> Evaluate the implementation of the following areas from Care Matters in Northern Ireland – A Bridge to a Better Future: (March 2007) Care Matters. Looked after Children – A Dedicated Educational Support Service</p>	<p>Being taken forward by Education Authority</p>		<p>Review completed</p>
	<p><b>2.3</b> Foster Carers and Key Workers – Engagement with Learning and Schools</p>			

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	<p><b>2.4</b> Equal access to learning opportunities and additional support Progression (16+) To achieve this we will undertake a scoping exercise to establish what information is available and what systems need to be set up in order for the above evaluation to be carried out.</p>			
<p><b>3.0</b> We will strive to ensure that looked after children and young people are placed appropriately in the right placement to meet their needs</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Develop arrangements to monitor unplanned fostering placement disruptions and review patterns emerging in order to inform practice.</p>	<p>RAFT/HSCB (UL)/Voypic (VMcC)</p>		<p>DSF Data source on moves reflecting unplanned moves. (Una.)</p> <p>There may be Trust data available (Una)</p> <p>May need to be clear about definition of unplanned moves</p>

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<p><b>4.0</b> We will strive to ensure that young people living in care do not come to any harm from physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> All care staff and foster carers are trained to recognise and respond to risk factors.</p> <p>Children and young people are supported to disclose or seek support when they do not feel safe</p>	<p>Una Lernihan-HSCB</p> <p>Work being undertaken by VOYPIC on young people's perspectives</p>	<p>Completed in context of CSE for staff and foster carers</p>	<p>Awareness raising programme completed</p>
<p><b>5.0</b> We will strive to ensure that Looked After Children will not inappropriately enter the criminal justice system</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Working collaboratively with the Early Intervention sub group and the CYP and Offending sub group to reduce number of LAC entering the criminal justice system</p> <p>All relevant staff to adopt a problem solving approach , including restorative practice</p> <p>Strive to ensure that comparable early intervention and prevention services are as accessible to LAC as they are to other children and young people</p>	<p>Youth Justice Agency Rep &amp; Maurice Leeson – CYPSP</p> <p>Youth Justice review</p>		<p>Woodlands data</p>

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<p><b>6.0</b> Assist all young people with an experience of care and/or homelessness to attain economic independence and develop money management skills, by supporting them with appropriate careers advice, skills, educational and employment opportunities to help them achieve their career goals.</p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Complete a scoping of current programmes available on money management</p>	<p>Deirdre Coyle and working group</p>		<p>Completion of financial guidance.</p>
	<p><b>6.2</b> Delivery of agreed training programmes on money management / preparation for adulthood to those with primary caring responsibilities – kinship and non-kinship carers, residential and 16 Plus staff</p>	<p>Deirdre Coyle and Working group</p>		<p>Number of programmes delivered</p>

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	<b>6.3</b> Adaption of UK financial guidance for carers.	Deirdre Coyle and Working group		
	<b>6.4</b> Maintenance of Regional Strategic Group – Care to Career – to support and drive the education, training and employment needs of care experienced young people through collaborative working by those bodies with lead responsibilities for improving outcomes for young people.	Deirdre Coyle and Working group		
	<b>6.5</b> Paper on current challenges facing young LAC and care experienced people and social security	Deirdre Coyle and Working group		
	<b>6.6</b> The Group will engage with SSA/DSD representatives to examine Welfare Reform changes and consider potential negative impacts and update related financial guidance for care affected young people. Consideration	Deirdre Coyle and Working group		

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	<p>will also be given to EMA entitlements.</p> <p><b>6.7</b> Complete evaluative work on current dedicated Employability Services for young people in and leaving care to assess effectiveness and impact</p>			
	<p><b>6.8</b> Produce a written document in partnership with FE and HE providers to include a schedule of financial supports and information on student support.</p>	Deirdre Coyle and Working group	Completed	This document has been produced and circulated as agreed.
<p><b>7.0</b> Develop a range of appropriate accommodation for Looked After and care experienced young people aged 16+, including those who are experiencing youth homelessness</p>	<p><b>7.1</b> Review current Commissioning Plan on Accommodation to Meet the Needs of care leavers / young homeless and identify gaps in the continuum of accommodation provision</p>	HE/HSCB/ Trust local joint commissioning groups.	2016	Statistics on use of Bed and Breakfast placements (HSCB /HE data)



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	7.2 Develop proposals that will eliminate the use of bed and breakfast arrangements			
8.0 We will strive to ensure that mentoring is available to all LAC to develop citizenship and participate fully	8.1 Map available mentoring services	HSCB (ML) & LAC 16+group.  VOYPIC	2016	
9.0 We will proactively Support children and young people to be involved in their own community and we will strive to promote the positive contributions that looked after children and young people make to society.	9.1 Engage the youth service to explore how to enable young people to take up opportunities within their community	DE  VOYPIC/HSCB		Data from youth providers

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	<p><b>9.2</b> Undertake a campaign to promote a positive image of children in care and challenge myths. Promote events opportunities to highlight positive contribution and achievements of looked after children. Promote children and young people's engagements in communities, that is youth clubs and volunteering.</p>	<p>VOYPIC Care Day/all partners</p>		
	<p><b>9.3</b> Positive images of children in care. Support the stability of placements by developing a strategy to enhance public awareness of children in care.</p>	<p>VOYPIC Care Day/all partners</p>		
<p><b>10. 0</b> Upholding and promoting rights of LAC, Care Experienced Young People and Homeless young people</p>	<p><b>10.1</b> Provide an advocacy service for LAC/Care Experienced young people (VOYPIC)</p>	<p>VOYPIC/all partners</p>		<p>VOYPIC data</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring from Trusts (Deirdre Coyle)</p> <p>CLC statistics on complaints relating to homelessness.</p> <p>Housing data on youth homelessness</p>

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	<b>10.2</b> Provide 5 local young representatives groups and 1 regional group (VOYPIC) to promote engagement and participation	VOYPIC		VOYPIC data
	<b>10.3</b> Every children entering care with the VOYPIC Care Pack			
	<b>10.4</b> Written material on rights, entitlements, sources of support and advice for young people at risk of or who are homeless.	Council for the homeless		Council for the homeless data
	<b>10.5</b> Development and reissue of regional good practice guidance on roles and responsibilities for Trusts/Housing Executive homeless young people.	HSCB (DC)	April 2015 completed	Document has been reissued and circulated.

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	<b>10.6</b> Young People's Participation Project-'Speak-Up' for young people at risk/experienced homelessness (commissioned by HSCB )	Council for the homeless	On-going	Qualitative data and report from project on Young people's experiences of services.  VOYPIC data  CLC statistics on complaints relating to homelessness.
	<b>10.7</b> Dedicated standard on vulnerable groups in Children's Services framework. Relates to separated children and homeless	Children's services framework	On-going	Separated children data (DC)
	<b>10.8</b> South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust interest in pilot of Children in Care Council subject to funding.	VOYPIC/Trusts	Dependent on funding. Currently under negotiation with Trusts	VOYPIC trend data on messages from LAC

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	<b>10.9</b> Guidance on complaints/representations and advocacy.		June 2015	Guidance completed
	<b>10.10</b> Map service user forums across the Trust supported by voluntary and community sectors.	VOYPIC	June 2016	
	<b>10.11</b> Map advocacy services for LAC/Care experienced/youth homelessness	VOYPIC/council for the Homeless	June 2016	
	<b>10.12</b> Review Trust PPI strategies and strive to ensure that user participation across LAC is linked.			