

External Placements - Agreed Action Plan

	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Agreed Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
<i>R1</i>	An up to date Looked after Children's Strategy should be developed reflecting the Council's commissioning intentions, including a plan for how the number of Looked after Children will be reduced incorporating both preventing the need for children to come into care and discharge from care where appropriate.	2	Agreed. Draft Looked after Children Strategy to be prepared. New Looked after Children Strategy to be ratified.	Deputy Director of People. Director of Children's Services.	11 th February 2017 31 st March 2017
<i>R2</i>	The way in which placement matching forms are completed should be reviewed and refresher training implemented as appropriate.	2	Agreed.	Senior Service Manager, Social Care.	14 th January 2017
<i>R3</i>	Up to date, documented procedures should be drawn up for the guidance of those involved in the external placements process specifying an approach to selecting external placement providers to ensure that non urgent placements are initially searched for at the lowest level tier commensurate with the type of placement required.	3	Agreed.	Senior Service Manager, Social Care.	31 st March 2017
<i>R4</i>	The potential for further action to increase the recruitment of internal foster carers should be reviewed including work with neighbouring authorities around joint recruitment.	2	Agreed.	Senior Service Manager, Social Care.	31 st March 2017

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R5	Collaborative market engagement and development work should be undertaken with the local external provider market in order to further develop local capacity and to achieve value for money.	2	Agreed.	Divisional Commissioning Manager.	31st December 2017
R6	Mechanisms for specialised, intensive residential provision to be commissioned in collaboration with neighbouring authorities should be explored further.	2	Agreed. A model is in place. Needs funding jointly with other authorities.	Head of Business Support and Resources.	30th June 2017
R7	The feasibility, benefits, costs, regulatory requirements and other implications should be explored and evaluated for collaboratively directly providing appropriate residential accommodation for children with challenging behaviour at risk of needing secure accommodation or where there is a current need for secure accommodation.	2	Agreed. An options appraisal paper on viability to be presented to the Corporate Leadership Team.	Director of Children's Services.	31st May 2017
R8	The suitability of developing a Social Impact Bond Blackpool model for the transition of children from external residential care to intensive therapeutic foster care should be considered and evaluated.	2	Agreed.	Head of Business Support and Resources / Delivery Unit.	30th June 2017
R9	The operation of the revised Placement Panel processes and the impact on external placements and on value for money should be monitored and be reviewed in due course.	2	Agreed.	Senior Service Manager, Social Care.	31st March 2017

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R10	Refresher training should be provided for social care staff on the revised operation of the Placement Panel, on financial understanding and on care planning and the identification of placements at risk of breakdown, including the importance of obtaining value for money in LAC placements.	2	Agreed.	Senior Service Manager, Social Care.	31st May 2017
R11	A system of regular checks of external provider invoices should be maintained to ensure that applicable discounts continue to be received.	2	Agreed. Checking process considered in more detail as part of audit Framework I review.	n/a	n/a
R12	The impact of the Adolescent Hub on the need for external placements should be identified and monitored.	2	Agreed.	Head of Youth Offending Team.	31st December 2017