



Ten Points for CiCCs to Monitor

TEN-POINT GUIDE ON ISSUES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL'S (CiCCs) TO MONITOR

This Guide is to help Children in Care Councils around the country check on how well councils and services are doing for looked after children and care leavers.

It provides hints on what to look for in:

- Complaints
- Placements, planning & review
- Contact
- Leaving care
- Access to files
- Education & training
- Spending
- Participation
- Being a good 'corporate parent'; and
- Health





1 Complaints

- Numbers of complaint from, or on behalf of, looked after children
- Proportion outside of timescales for resolving these complaints
- Proportion of advocacy available in each of these complaints
- Proportion of complaints 'found', 'not found' or 'partially found'

NOTE: CiCCs might also wish to randomly check with some looked after children who have used the complaints procedure to establish their level of satisfaction with the outcome.

2 Placements / Planning / Review

- Numbers of looked after children placed outside of local authority area
- Numbers of looked after children placed separately from siblings they also have in care
- Most number of placement changes for looked after children (three or more within a year)

NOTE: CiCCs might also wish to randomly check with some looked after children who have changed placements to see whether they agreed with the move or felt that they were moved against their wishes.

- Numbers of looked after children with / without a care plan
- Proportions who have (i) seen it; (ii) contributed to it; and (iii) agreed with it
- Evidence that care plans are properly kept to
- Numbers of looked after children currently without a social worker
- Most number of changes of social worker (two or more in a year)
- Proportions of looked after children having placement changes made outside of a review chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer?
- Proportion of reviews taking place within timescales (i.e. at least one every six months)



- Proportion of looked after children taking part in their reviews?

NOTE: CiCCs might also wish to randomly check with some looked after children to establish the extent to which they felt that their views were listened to during reviews.

3 Contact

- Looked after children currently with no contact with family; as broken down by (i) parents; (ii) siblings; and, (iii) extended family members (aunts, uncles, grandparents)?
- How many of these have an Independent Visitor appointed?
- How many looked after children have contact with family of no more than twice a year?
- Number refused overnight stay with friends without a CRB check on their friend's family

NOTE: CiCCs might also wish to randomly check with some looked after children to establish their level of satisfaction with the contact they have.

4 Leaving Care

- Numbers leaving care
- Ages at which they left care
- Accommodation, by type, that care leavers moved on to
- Numbers with / without a pathway plan in place
- Numbers with / without a Personal Advisor
- Numbers getting leaving care grants / setting up home allowances provided (and levels)
- Numbers getting university bursaries (and amounts)

NOTE: CiCCs might also wish to randomly check with some recent care leavers to establish their view on the preparation and timing for leaving care.



5 Access to Files

- Numbers of looked after children whose requests to access their files were accepted
- Numbers of looked after children denied requests to access their files

6 Education & Training

- How many looked after children are currently not in full-time education or training (where applicable)?
- How many looked after children are currently permanently excluded from school?
- How many have changed school by reason of a change to their care placement?
- Number of looked after children with a statement of Special Educational Needs
- Proportion of looked after children achieving five or more A to Cs at GCSE level
- Proportion of care leavers going onto (i) training; (ii) college; and, (iii) university

7 Spending

- Has spending on looked after children increased, stayed the same or been cut?
- In what specific areas is spending for looked after children either being reduced or increased?

8 Participation

- Frequency of the (i) Director of Children's Services; (ii) Lead Member for Children's Services; or, (iii) other senior officers / members of the council meeting with the Children in Care Council?



- Examples of how the Children in Care Council are listened to and taken seriously
- Examples of how other looked after children and care leavers are listened to and taken seriously

9 Being a Good Corporate Parent

- Examples of the council celebrating / or failing to celebrate looked after children's success
- Policies for carers (i) attending school parenting evenings; (ii) taking children in their care away with them on family holidays; (iii) making everyday decisions (e.g. overnight stays with friends); and, (iv) challenging discrimination we sometimes face because we are in care
- Examples of council 'pledges' reflecting what children have told them; and being kept to

10 Health

- Number of looked after children not currently registered with a GP
- Number of looked after children not currently registered with a dentist