

Edge of Care Interventions Report Quarter Two 2020-21

Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission

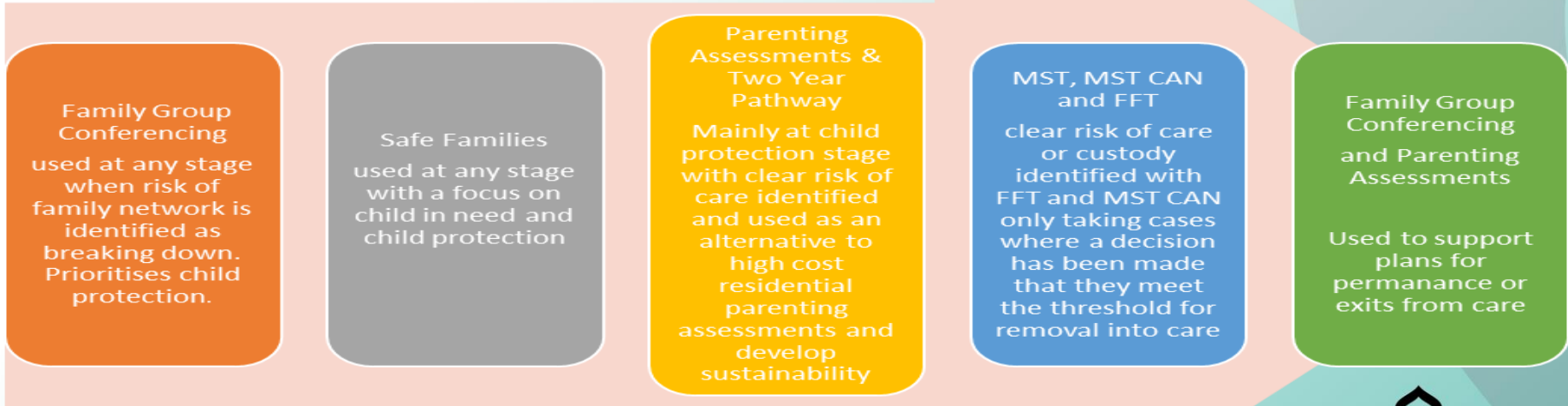
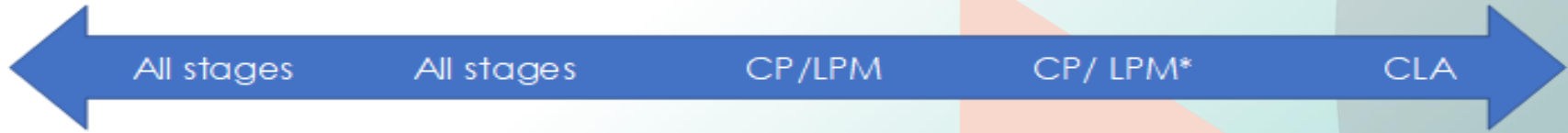
14th April 2021

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**Leicester
City Council**

Approach to edge of care services



Summary

- Delivery model resumed, 24% increase on interventions concluded compared with previous quarter.
- 49 children EOC concluded – 45 children (92%) remained at home, closed to social care and early help or exited from care.
- 18 children who had an EOC intervention stepped down from pre proceedings

By end of Q2 (2020-21), cost avoidance can be evidenced:

- MST-FFT - £1.6m net forecast exceeding target of £1.1m
- Safe Families (Annual)
- FGC/Parenting Assessments – No financial evaluation but established models evidencing impact
- Parenting Assessments – Only 5 residential assessments commissioned, annual reduction maintained
- Children Looked After cohort report in progress, EOC offer reviewed with proposals for 2021-2022.



Comparator data by ethnicity for families supported by edge of care interventions

Disproportionality in particular, an under representation of mixed heritage young being supported by edge of care interventions when compared with the total population of children who are in care and care leavers. EOC supporting higher numbers of white british children and those living in areas with the most deprivation, Braunstone and Rowley Fields highest.

Ethnicity Category	Edge of care intervention	Children Looked After	Care Leavers	Combined CLA and Care Leavers	Leicester population
White British	68.8% (126)	57.2% (346)	50.7% (137)	55.2% 483	45.1%
Mixed Heritage	5.46% (10)	19.37% (117)	14.4% (39)	17.84% 156	3.5%

MST, MST CAN and FFT

- 51 children/ 35 families opened in the quarter
- Referral status: 12.5% Early Help, 50% Child in Need, 37.5% Child Protection
- EOC interventions concluded for 38 cases (43 children)

Team	Cases closed	Success Rate		
		Remain at home	CLA	Closed
MST	15 (3)	15 (2)	0 (1)	0 (0)
MST CAN	5 (3)	5 (3)	0 (0)	0
FFT	18 (14)	12 (9)	3 (4)	3 (1)
Total	38 (20)	32 (14)	3 (5)	3 (1)

- Adherence scores remain high, 100% of 'failed cases' come into care
- Projected to exceed annual target: 3.6m gross (1.6m net), increased costs of placements due to greater needs (mental health/exploitation)

Safe Families

Category 1 – need support but not at risk of accommodation, Category 2 is without SF support, on trajectory to coming into care - 55% of referrals were determined as Cat 2 - comparable to other LA's using Safe Families.

22 families (63) children referred (23% increase from Q1)

37 children supported in Q2 - 46% for social care, 54% for Early Help – 80% are aged 0 – 11

0 Bed nights, however hosting planned for 1 child imminently

Engagement rate is 66%, better than comparable LA's at 50%

3 care leavers supported

16 host families/ 117 vols

73% of all children supported to date have maintained or de-escalated, 24% closed, 3% LAC

Proposal to extend contract using Troubled Families PBR to continue service till Mar 22 for child protection, exits from care and care leavers (£60k)

Family Group Conference

- Referrals for 10 families, 28 children comparable with Q1
- Referral status: 32% Early Help, 42% Child Protection, 32% CLA
- 7 FGC's held - 49 family members invited, 33 attended meetings
- 100% produced a family plan independently

Cases closed (previous quarter)	Success rate				
	Remain at home	Remain LAC	CLA	Closed	Exist from Care
7 (13)	4 (7)	0 (1)	2* (1)	1 (2)	0 (2)

- 1 x LAC is placement with parents, the other exploring options to return home
- Signs of Safety scaling: average at point of referral was **4.5**, after 3 months moved up to **7.1** (out of a scale of 10)
- Proposal to use Troubled Families PBR to continue service till Mar 22 for child protection and exits from care (£100k)

Parenting Assessments (PA)

- 45 requests for PA, 41 children (34 pre birth) St Andrews 0 due to CV-19
- Referral status: 22% Single Assessment, 22% CIN, 22% , 45% Child Protection, 11% CLA

PA completed		Success rate				
		Remain at home	Remain CLA	Became CLA	Closed	Exit from care
Early Help	9 (4)	3 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (4)	
St Andrews						

Year	No of residential PA	Bed nights	Cost	Comments
2017-18	55	3,261	1.2m	Avg assessment is 60 nights, £200 per day
2018-19	23	1,116	470k	Developed in house PA model within existing resources
2019-20	21	675	450k	Some assessments higher cost due to CCTV etc
2020-21	5	320	154k	(All 5 ended)

MST AND FGC

FGC

16-year-old moved into live with friend's family home. Plan made to support him, family and friend's family and to plan if current living situation changes. FGC plan is working, still living with friend. EH remains open as working with younger children.

MST CAN

My therapist has been marvellous. I was not expecting any of this, certainly nothing so positive and helpful. We have such a positive relationship. She is so different to the other professionals I have worked with. She works with an open mind. She weighs things up and makes her own mind up. She always listens. She has done everything that she can, despite the difficulties with covid and accessibility to services. She sees things from my perspective and sees my point of view. She understands my past. I really appreciate that she has asked other professionals to step back with support I don't need. She didn't judge me like everyone else has.

Safe Families - Z

- **Background:** Z is a care leaver who was removed from his birth family when he was 10 due to chronic neglect and abuse. He went from foster carer to foster carer and now lives independently. He is very lonely with nothing to do.
- **Support requested:** A family friend for Z to give him emotional support and to help him gain life skills he has missed out on learning. He says he wants to learn how to talk to people.
- **Support provided:** Z has been linked with a family friend who has been out with him on walks, been round to play X Box with him and has offered him emotional and practical support. The volunteer has helped Z sort through his finances and helped him know what to do when he had earache. The volunteer has also been helping him and supporting him to keep going to his football training and has helped him to better understand how to communicate with his coach.
- **Outcomes:** Z narrates that although he was initially very anxious to meet the volunteer, he is really glad that he has and has been opening up to him more and more. Z says that he wants to learn 'to speak to other people as easily as I speak to you [the volunteer]'

Parenting Assessment for AB - Feedback from a social worker

“The assessment is very well written and structured and addresses all areas expected.

In terms of constructive feedback, there is a lot of emphasis on the practicalities like home safety, feeding, bathing etc which is brilliant and very detailed”.

“I had a post birth assessment completed for baby A earlier this year. We had a lot of worries about this family due to the history and were monitoring it very closely. Emma (Child Development Worker) was fantastic. She completed an assessment of baby with the whole family, and developed a great understanding of the history, concerns and what needed to happen. Emma developed a fantastic relationship with the family and maintained great contact with AB and other professionals. The parent in question has had some difficult experiences with children's social care, but Emma was able to develop a positive and professional relationship with her. The assessment enabled the LA to support the family to stay safe and stay together and we were able to complete the work needed and close on a very positive note.

Without this assessment, I expect we will have been open on a cp plan for considerably longer, possibly under pre/ proceedings. The assessment enabled me to provide a holistic social work assessment to demonstrate the positive changes sustained by this family.

Many thanks again to Emma and You (the Lead), re this piece of work. It was an absolute pleasure working with you. Having this service available has been so helpful at a time where managing and progressing cases is even more challenging than usual”!

Key Recommendations

- 1. Ongoing analysis to be completed on ethnicity of children supported, identifying any trends and actions. Meeting with Cllr Patel early Jan to identify key lines of enquiry.**
- 2. Safe Families to increase pool of volunteers from asian communities – ongoing, delay due to CV-19, planned to meet with faith groups. Link up with fostering service who also want to recruit asian foster carers.**
- 3. St Andrews Contact Centre to undertake parenting assessments from Q3.**
- 4. FGC to deliver a workshop with members within Q4.**
- 5. Use Troubled Families PBR to continue temporary edge of care interventions for FGC (£100k) and Safe Families (£60k)**

Any questions?

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If you can predict something, you can prevent it.....



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