



Leicester
City Council

SCE Social
Care &
Education

Keeping children safe,
helping families thrive

- Whole system and child centred approach to reform
- Will require changes to legislation
- Builds on previous Stable Homes, Built on Love reforms.
- Four key reform principles:
 1. Children should remain with their families and be safely prevented from entering the care system in the first place
 2. Where children cannot remain at home and it is in their best interests, we should support children to live with kinship carers or in fostering families, rather than in residential care
 3. Fix the broken care market
 4. Need to invest in key enablers which underpin the children's social care system, including the workforce, better data, information sharing and to scale and spread evidence-based programmes which have improved children's outcomes

Legislating to keep families
together and children safe and to
remove barriers to opportunity

- Key priorities in legislating to keep families together and children safe and to remove barriers to opportunity:
 1. Mandating local authorities to offer family group decision making
 2. Improving data sharing and introducing a single unique identifier
 3. Strengthening the role of education within multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
 4. Strengthening multi-agency child protection
 5. Home education and child protection
 6. Extend corporate parenting responsibilities
 7. Promoting educational outcomes for children with a social worker through Virtual School heads
 8. Providing Staying Close support to care leavers

Legislating to make the care system child centred and to tackle profiteering

- Key priorities in legislating to make the care system child centred and to tackle profiteering:
 1. Making it easier to open the right kinds of homes which meet children's needs
 2. Improving accountability for the quality of homes
 3. Ensuring inspection reflects the makeup of the children's homes market
 4. Improving local authorities' ability to shape the market
 5. Regulating the placements market to ensure financial stability and tackle profiteering
 6. Introducing a regulation-making power to govern local authority use of agency workers within children's social care services

- Develop and implement our response to earlier reform proposals – Family Help – seamless support across Early Help and Child in Need embedded in our communities
- In parallel work with key safeguarding partners and other agencies to develop multi-agency child protection teams sitting alongside our community-based Family Help offer
- Ensure we have the right resources to deliver on newly mandated family-decision making meetings
- Continuing work with ICB on shared Care Record
- Work with safeguarding partners and education colleagues to ensure education role is strengthened in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and service delivery

- Launch the SCE Social Care Academy to support and accelerate our strategy to grow our own highly skilled and flexible workforce and reduce reliance on agency staff
- Embed Valuing Care tool into our case management system to support effective and best value placement planning
- Work collaboratively with regional neighbours and their planning departments to deliver quality children's home provision that better meets need
- Continue discussions with neighbouring authorities to develop Regional Care Cooperative to exert great influence on placements market
- Future proof all changes to service delivery models to account for impact of local government reforms