



Achieving for Children Partners in Practice proposal

Understanding excellence

- Increasing the role of alternative delivery models in children's social care by expanding AfC by up to three additional local authority areas, rolling out the Signs of Safety model of practice across all company areas in tandem.
- Enabling excellence in practice by:
 - implementing a locality based cluster model of working;
 - co-locating social care and early help staff; and by
 - growing capacity in child protection teams to increase the amount of direct work conducted with families, in line with the Munro review recommendations.
- Investing in a new tranche of Systematic Family Therapists who will work alongside Social Workers and Early Help practitioners to ensure that the benefits of working together in localities are maximised.
- Developing a Young Person's Resilience Service to work with adolescents at risk of becoming looked after, bringing together the existing four teams working with this group. This will enable the new service to work with the child and family as a whole in a restorative approach, rather than addressing separate needs in isolation.

Sector improvement

- Improving services quickly and on a national scale by establishing a Performance, Delivery and Innovation Unit (PDI) to work with authorities in intervention or at risk of failure to increase the pace of their improvement journeys.
- Establishing a Practice Leadership Academy to develop a pipeline of practice leaders for the sector, equipped for the challenges of working in underperforming authorities.
- Addressing the downward trend in the quality and performance of services by supporting local authorities who are 'at risk' of failure. This work will include an initial diagnostic phase, a co-designed improvement plan, and peer-to-peer support. It will have a particular focus on using performance information to shape service delivery and demonstrate improved outcomes for children.