



Lincolnshire's Partners in Practice proposal

Lincolnshire's proposal focuses on three work streams: practice and systems is focused on creating the right environment for excellent practice and innovation; governance and accountability is focused on developing innovative new organisational models that could transform services; and developing the people and leadership is focused within the profession to deliver the work and nurture excellent practice. Within these three work streams there are a further aspirations that Lincolnshire propose to achieve. These are:

Understanding excellence

- Redesigning social work policy, procedure and practice to place Signs of Safety at the centre, where previously this sat alongside the single assessments required under Working together to safeguard children and Ofsted.
- Moving to relationship based practice and greater constancy by maintaining the same/ most appropriate key worker for each child and exploring how to have a better transition between s.17 and early help¹. This will enable the most appropriate person who can affect change within a family to be able to act as the family's lead worker, rather than a social worker.
- Developing practice based on the Research in Practice findings to explore how best to intervene and support young people engaging in risky behaviour, outside of child protection arrangements. This would include introducing risk taking panels who would take on the management of cases where there was traditionally family engagement with social workers. This should give families an empowerment they say is lacking.
- Creating a multi-disciplinary approach to academic outcomes and opportunities for children in care by introducing training and support for school staff in attachment and providing education links for foster parents and social workers.

Sector improvement

- As part of exploring service redesign and sector improvement, Lincolnshire is also exploring the benefits of alternative delivery models than could facilitate more collaborative working.
- Implementing the Assessment and Accreditation programme for social workers and

¹ Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (S.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds.

exploring the potential for a national Practice Leader talent programme for aspiring leaders. This would be modelled on National Leaders in Education (NLE).

- Trialling the introduction of an improvement system aligned to the Teaching Schools model. This would see Lincolnshire offer support to other local authorities across a wide geographical area, helping spread best practice.