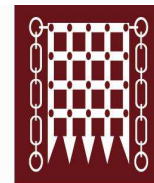


Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Children in care - raising standards, improving support for care leavers and the future for adoption

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13th June 2017

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Richard Morris, Assistant Director, Cafcass
- 9.10 - 10.00 **Raising standards for children in care: improving mental health provision, educational attainment and children's residential care**
In light of evidence that children in care are four times more likely to experience mental health difficulties, what should be the next steps for improving mental health provision for looked after children? What more can be done to reduce the educational attainment gap between looked-after and non-looked after children? What training and support will be needed to maximise the impact of the new requirement for schools to appoint a staff member as responsible for the attainment of children previously looked after? How can children in care be supported to overcome past trauma and build trusting relationships; what should be the role of care planning in this process? Following the Narey review's finding that places in children's homes are often 'bought' rather than commissioned, how can commissioning practice in children's residential care be improved; will the establishment of the Residential Care Leadership Board help? How can children's social care establishments prepare for Ofsted's new social care common inspection framework, introduced in April 2017? In light of proposals to reduce oversight of children's homes rated 'good' or 'outstanding', what safeguards would be necessary to ensure that quality of care is not negatively affected?
Cathy Jermey, Interim Named Nurse for Children in Care and Care Leavers, Devon Integrated Children's Services
Dr Lisa Thorne, Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Lead, CAMHS Children in Care Team, Devon Integrated Children's Services
Jon Fayle, Vice Chair, National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers
Val Naylor, Executive Headteacher, Newham Virtual School for Looked After Children, London Borough of Newham
Jonathan Stanley, Chief Executive Officer, Independent Children's Homes Association
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 10.25 **Implementing the Social Care Common Inspection Framework**
Matthew Brazier HMI, National Lead for Looked After Children, Ofsted
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Richard Morris, Assistant Director, Cafcass
- 10.30 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Earl of Listowel
- 11.00 - 11.15 **Fostering in England inquiry: key findings**
Simon Armitage, Committee Assistant, Education Select Committee
- 11.15 - 11.55 **The future of adoption: regionalisation and improving the adoption process**
What will be necessary for local authorities to achieve the target of all councils becoming part of a regional adoption agency (RAA) by 2020? What lessons can be learnt from the process of establishing RAAs in the five pilot areas commissioned by government? How would regionalisation impact the matching of children with adoptive parents, and how can it be ensured that RAAs cooperate across borders where it is in the best interests of the child? How far will changes to the considerations of courts - including giving prospective adopters the same status as biological parents - successfully reverse the trend of declining numbers of adoptions? What impact has the Adoption Support Fund had, and what further support is needed for families going through the adoption process?
Dr Carol Homden, Chief Executive, Coram and Member, National Adoption Recruitment Forum & Adoption Leadership Board
Naomi Angell, Consultant, Osbornes Solicitors
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor with **Simon Armitage**, Committee Assistant, Education Select Committee
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Improving support for care leavers: the care leavers' covenant and easing the transition to adulthood**
How can local authorities best implement the new requirement that local authorities publish a 'local offer' to care leavers and provide a personal adviser until the age of 25; what can be done to ensure that knowledge of services reaches as many care leavers as possible, and what examples of best practice exist? In light of renewed funding for the Innovation Programme, what lessons can be learnt from evaluations of projects to support care leavers and what should be the priorities for the future of the programme? What action would be required to enable care leavers to have access to CAMHS until the age of 25, as suggested by the Education Select Committee? What lessons can be learnt from the 'Staying Put' programme as the 'Staying Close' initiative is trialled to ease the transition to adulthood of children living in residential care, and what further support is needed for care leavers who choose other routes out of care? What are the main barriers to care leavers applying to, and attending, higher education institutions, and how can these be overcome? For care leavers who choose not to attend university, how can they be best helped with entering other forms of education, training or employment?
Joanne Kavanagh, Leaving Care Manager, Medway Council
Frances Flaxington, Strategic Director, Catch22
Dr Felicity Dunworth, Regional Representative, South East, National Network for the Education of Care Leavers and Director, Kent and Medway Progression Federation
Jasmine Ali, Senior Policy and Research Advisor, TACT and Co-Chair, Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers
Fatima Kissi Traore
Jack Currie
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Earl of Listowel
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum