

Rationale – In South Ayrshire we identified that there was significant drift and delay in achieving permanence for our children and young people and there was no Looked After Review process for young people on Compulsory Supervision Orders at home.

What We Are Trying to Accomplish –

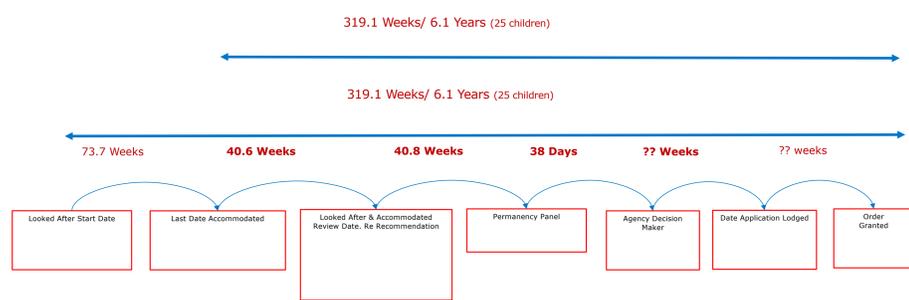
- 80% of children and young people on a Compulsory Supervision Order at home for more than 18 months to be independently reviewed by 31 December 2019.
- By 31/5/2020, 75% of children who become looked after and accommodated after 20/5/19 will have a recommendation for permanence (including permanent return home) within 30 weeks of becoming looked after and accommodated.
- By 31/5/2020, 60% of children who have had a recommendation for permanence away from home will have the decision ratified by the Agency Decision Maker within 30 weeks of the Looked After Review that recommended permanence.

Method

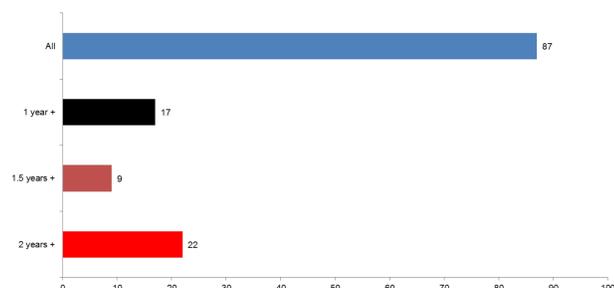
As a Social Work Service we identified through Permanence Planning Meetings for children looked after away from home there was evidence of significant drift and delay. Using the data set we were able to identify where in the process there was significant drift and delay. Through process mapping we were able to undertake small tests of change.

The table below shows the young person's journey from looked after date to date order granted (as at 2/4/19).

Key milestones for children/ young people who are looked after and become accommodated away from home :



Looked After At Home as at 2/4/19



The above table shows the number of young people on a Compulsory Supervision Order at Home as at 2.4.19

Process Change

AIM 1 –

- Team Leaders to chair LAC at Home Reviews. Social Workers are not required to provide a report.
- Chair will contact the SW prior to the Review to have a discussion and access case notes on Care First to get an overview of current circumstances.
- An Action Minute will be produced from the Review including a recommendation to the Children's Hearing.

AIM 2 –

- A Planning Meeting will take place within 3 days of young person become looked after away from home, chaired by Team Leader. No reports are expected.
- An Initial Looked After Meeting to take place within 3 weeks, chaired by an Independent Chair.
- An interim Review to take place at 3 months. No report to be submitted.
- Within 30 weeks of young person being looked after a Substantive Looked After Review to be held. Social Workers to complete Referral Form for Legal Advice and submit to Legal Services 2 weeks prior to the Substantive Looked After Review.

Achievements

- Implementation of Referral Form for legal advice prior to Substantive Looked After Review
- We are on target to achieve 80% of Looked After at Home Reviews (put in stats) .
- Five day permanence training organised for all Social Work staff.

Key Learning Points

- Small tests of change have re-focused the importance of achieving permanence within a realistic timescale for children and young people in South Ayrshire.
- The streamlining of processes and paperwork has allowed Social Workers to focus on their assessment timeously.
- The guidance provided from the Scottish Government/SCRA in respect of children looked after at home and the poor outcomes evidence for children affected by extended periods of compulsion.

<https://www.scra.gov.uk/2019/09/research-on-home-csos/>

Results

AIM 1 – we have achieved 63% of Looked After at Home Reviews. Of those 80% have a recommendation to terminate the Compulsory Supervision Order.

Conclusions

We are in the early stages of the improvement methodology. There have been challenges in terms of increasing workload and capacity issues, however, we are committed to achieving permanence decisions for our young people in South Ayrshire.

Collecting data has been crucial to us achieving our aims. It has enabled us to identify where drift and delay is and track our improvement journey.

Scale / Spread

We will review AIM 1 in January 2020 and whether we have achieved our target. Using the PDSA methodology we will review and assess how effective the process has been/what barriers there have been to continue with the improvement work.

In January 2020 we will be able to start and run the data for AIM 2 as we will be hitting the timescales for Substantive Looked After Reviews for the young people who were accommodated after 20 May 2019.

Presenting data information to wider Management Meetings.