

Record of Decision

Annual Children Looked After Children: Permanence Place Planning

Decision Taker

Mayor on 3 April 2017 at the Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team).

Decision

That the Permanence Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved and that regular updates are provided to members.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Ofsted's inspections which have concluded that Torbay Council's Children's Services has not, in the past, placed sufficient emphasis on the importance of permanence planning.

Implementation

The decision will come into force and may be implemented on 21 April 2017 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Consecutive Ofsted Inspections have concluded that Torbay Children's Services has not, in the past, placed sufficient emphasis on the importance of permanence planning. This has meant that too many children have either been moved from placement to placement, or been placed, on a long term basis, in placements that do not afford them permanence. The weaknesses in permanence planning has also contributed to the high numbers of children looked after.

As part of the improvement work underway following the Ofsted inspection a more dynamic and thoughtful approach towards permanence planning was developed, supported by the revised policy and accompanying practice guidance. The revised policy sets out Torbay's vision for achieving permanence and outlines the practical steps that practitioners and managers will take in order to improve performance and outcomes for children.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

11 April 2017

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____