

Appendix 2 – Action Plan in response to views of Children aged 7-11 and in consultation with the Junior Council:

All Actions to be led by the Operations Managers (CY and CF) and the LAC and F and A Team Managers.

Key Themes and Follow Up Actions:

1. Theme 1 – Why am I in care and why can't I go home?

The survey showed that many younger children are confused and don't fully understand the reasons why they are not able to live with their family

Action: Improve social worker and carers skills in listening and explaining difficult issues to children.

Joint Foster Carer and Childrens' Conference to focus on this area in Autumn 2014.

2. Why doesn't my social worker spend more time getting to know me on my terms?

The survey showed that younger children would like their social workers to spend more time with them and get to know them through playing games and going on trips together

Action: Team managers to ensure that this is built into practice and reviewed at supervision.

3. Why can't I stay overnight at my friends and they stay at my house?

Children would like to be the same as their friends and have sleepovers as other children do.

Action: Changes to practice have already been made in this area to facilitate this and the Junior Council reported back the positive impact this is having.

4. Why have you taken my Mobile Phone away from me?

This is a very sensitive and complex issue as experience shows that family contacts which may be prohibited can occur extensively where children have access to Mobile phones.

Action: This links to Action 1 above re explaining difficult issues to children and regularly reviewing such decisions.

5. Why can't I have my social worker's telephone number so I can contact her/him when I need to talk to them?

Action: Ensure all children have access to their individual social workers contact details.

6. Why can't my Review be more about me and I decide who attends?

Action: Pilot a more child centred approach including children chairing their own reviews and expressing their views re the nature of parental involvement.

7. Why don't social workers explain more to me and not go into a separate room with my Foster Carer?

Action: Improve practice to ensure that Social Workers and Foster Carers are aware of the impact of separate discussions on children and young people and improve skills in communicating with them and explaining difficult issues.