

# Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Placement Sufficiency Strategy (2014 –  
2015)

# Contents

1. Foreword
2. Introduction
3. Our Vision
4. Legislative Context
5. Key Principles
6. Our Priorities
7. Background Information
8. General Placement Sufficiency
9. Scrutiny and Case Management
10. Impact and Risk
11. Next Steps
12. Conclusion
13. Appendix 1: Headline Data/Conclusion

## 1. Foreword

- 1.1 The focus of this strategy is to improve outcomes for children in care or on the edge of care, and for services to work together to provide joined up services that support children and young people in local provision within the Borough, or close to their community, school, family and friends, which is safe, desirable and appropriate. Children and young people looked after by the Local Authority rather than their parents are amongst the most vulnerable groups in our society. As corporate parents, it is our responsibility to keep them safe, to make sure that their experiences in care are positive, and to improve their ongoing life chances. Within this document looked after children and care leavers –that is those children subject to a court order or by virtue of a voluntary agreement with parents, or those with entitlement under the Children Leaving Care Act are referred to as Cared for Children. This is the term that Rochdale MBC looked after children requested the Local Authority use and it is the name of the Service for children in long term care or leaving care.
- 1.2 This strategy has been informed by analysis of Rochdale’s looked after children population ‘The Journey of Children in Care in Rochdale MBC November 2012 – October 2013 and describes the placements that we want to provide and commission for our looked after children. In addition this strategy focuses on how we will develop current arrangements to improve the lives of the children in our care. However, the scope is not restricted to just making good quality placements; the intention is to bring together the range of activity across children’s services at all stages of the care journey, including a clear focus on supporting families to stay together wherever it is safe to do so, and minimizing the need for children to become looked after.
- 1.3 Our vision for looked after children is that they are in placements appropriate to their needs which, for the majority, will be in a matched family placement within or close to the Borough. Our approach to commissioning and the sufficiency of suitable local placements within the Borough will focus on significantly increasing the number of foster placements available, and will have due regard to emerging trends. We also recognize the need to develop specialist long term secure family placements to accommodate key groups of children and young people, such as those on remand, those with mental health issues, those at risk of child sexual exploitation or those displaying more challenging behaviours.
- 1.4 Finally, this strategy provides an overview and the headline priorities that have been developed to address the particular needs of Cared for Children in Rochdale. It is underpinned and supplemented by a suite of themed strategies, policies and statements of intent, as follows:
- the Joint Commissioning Strategy (2013-2015)

- the Corporate Parenting Strategy; (2013)
- the Permanency and Stability Strategy; 2013-15
- the Education of Looked After Children Strategy; 2013
- the Participation of Looked After Children Strategy; 2014
- the Missing From Care Protocol ; 2013
- the Transitions Policy

## **2. Introduction**

2.1 Rochdale MBC is committed to providing Cared for Children with a stable and secure environments in which to thrive and achieve their full potential, as their peers do. This strategy sets out our commissioning priorities and actions to improve outcomes for children in care through the efficient and effective deployment of resources, and the involvement of children and young people and their families. The strategy is aligned to the Council's priorities; in particular, to our determination to:

- protect the most vulnerable in our community;
- ensure value for money;
- deliver reliable frontline services; and
- ensure that cared for children can access good quality education, health and welfare services.
- enable all cared for children and young people to fulfill their potential.

2.2 The strategy is focused on Cared for Children and those on the 'edge of care and sits within the Council's commitment to:

- safeguard children and young people, and protect them from abuse;
- help children and young people to achieve their potential at all stages of their education;
- support parents and carers to bring up happy and adjusted children;
- provide young people with the skills and confidence to be successful; and
- increase opportunities for young people to take part in and shape their communities

2.3 The strategy is also critical in relation to meeting our statutory obligations in respect of Cared for Children as set out in:

- the Fostering Agencies Regulations 2011, Associated Guidance (volume 4), National Minimum Standards;
- the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010; and
- the Sufficiency Duty: Statutory Guidance On Securing Sufficient Accommodation For Looked After Children 2010

2.4 This plan seeks to ensure that the needs of Cared for Children including care leavers are met through the provision of sufficient and appropriate range and choice of placements. This strategy sets out the strategic vision, outcomes for children in care and their placements. It also contributes to and influences the commissioning framework for the required service and efficiency improvements.

### **3. Our Vision**

3.1 Our ambition is to significantly improve the life chances of Cared for Children to ensure that they achieve the same health, educational and social outcomes as their peers, remain local to the community of their birth, attend local schools and have their voices heard. We will do this by:

- developing a diverse range of personalized, high quality, value for money services that reflect the needs and views of looked after children and their families;
- collaborating with regional and sub-regional partners to develop high quality local services;
- developing the market across the independent sectors that will improve choice and manage costs;
- promoting service user participation, putting looked after children at the heart of decision making through individual care plans and future service development and review..
- ensuring that all children on the threshold of becoming looked after have access to the services that they need; at the time that they need them and as such have the right plan to meet their needs.

### **4. Legislative Context**

4.1 The functions (including powers and duties) of Local Authorities in relation to children who are looked after by them are set out in the Children Act 1989 as principally amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, and the associated regulations and guidance in relation to those functions. Section 22(3) of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the Local Authority looking after a child to safeguard and promote the welfare of that child. This duty underpins all activity by the Local Authority in relation to looked after children.

### **5. Key Principles**

5.1 Rochdale MBC recognises, and is committed to upholding, the principles and provisions of the United Nations Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is also committed to fulfilling all of the duties and responsibilities of being a corporate parent to all children looked after by the Local Authority.

5.2 In this context, the key principles that we will follow when considering placements and how we achieve these for the children in our care are

as follows: that

We believe that all children have the right to family life which offers them permanence, and that, where possible, this should be within their own birth family;

We define permanence as the securing of a child's physical, social and psychological wellbeing throughout childhood and into adulthood, and understand that this is achieved by the provision of consistent care, stable relationships and a secure family base in life;

Where children are separated from their birth family, every effort will be made to reunite them wherever it is safe, and in their best interests, to do so;

Where this cannot be achieved within timescales which meet the child's needs and a decision is taken that a child cannot return to the care of their birth family, consideration will be given to all other options which will promote stability, emotional and physical wellbeing, a sense of belonging, maintaining cultural heritage and identity and opportunities to fulfill the child's potential;

- decisions about achieving permanence must take into account the wishes and feelings of children and young people, their birth parents and families, and must ensure that the child's cultural, religious and racial needs will be addressed;
- the importance of children maintaining links with their birth family is acknowledged. Contact plans which enable such links to be sustained, and are appropriate to the chosen permanence option, will be developed and supported. However, all contact plans must be based on the needs of the child, rather than on the needs of the adult;
- we recognize the legal duty to give preference to placement with family or friends, unless that would not reasonably be practicable or consistent with the child's welfare;
- placements will be sought that are as local as possible to the child's community, school, family and support networks;
- placements will be of a high quality, will offer value for money and will be family based wherever possible and appropriate; and
- the role and contribution of group care, Children's Homes /Residential removals is

- the main focus of our commissioning approach will be the need to create and sustain capacity within the Borough. Where placements break down, or there is a change in status, we will seek more cost effective alternative provision; i.e. semi-independent living.

## **6. Our Priorities**

### **6.1 Children will be safeguarded appropriately through early intervention and decisive decision making.**

Our goal is that the right children become looked after at the right time, have the right plan and remain looked after for as long as it is appropriate.

### **6.2 Stability will be secured by the second looked after children's review for Cared for Children through a plan for permanence.**

Our goal is to consider permanency options prior to a child becoming looked after and to secure a plan for permanence for all children by the second looked after review through robust assessment and high quality care planning and scrutiny acknowledged. Should a child require other provision we will always seek to place in good/outstanding provision, will ensure objectives of the placement are clear and regularly review progress.

### **6.3 Placement choice will be offered for looked after children wherever possible.**

Our goal is to provide young people with a choice of placement in any planned move, and that arrangements will be made to visit and to take account of their and their family's views about possible placements before any decision is made.

### **6.4 Effective multi-agency support to placements will be ensured.**

Our goal is to ensure that education, health and other providers work closely with placement providers to ensure that a placement continues to meet the child's developmental needs through the involvement of partners a robust care planning and review process .

### **6.5 Local provision, including specialist options, will be fully developed.**

Our goal is to ensure that all Cared for Children, including those with specialist needs, are able to be placed locally, and are able to continue



to attend their school and to maintain friendship and family ties.

**6.6 Transition to adulthood for care leavers will be supported by a range of semi-independent and supported housing provision.**

Our goal is to ensure that all Cared for Children are provided with placements that will prepare them for their own tenancy, and independent adult life.

**7. Background Information**

In order to achieve sufficient quality and range of local provision and to deliver permanence and placement stability for all Cared for Children detailed understanding of who the cohort of children is, their needs and trends in admission and discharges has been captured in the document ' The Journey of Children in Care Rochdale MBC' .

**How many children?**

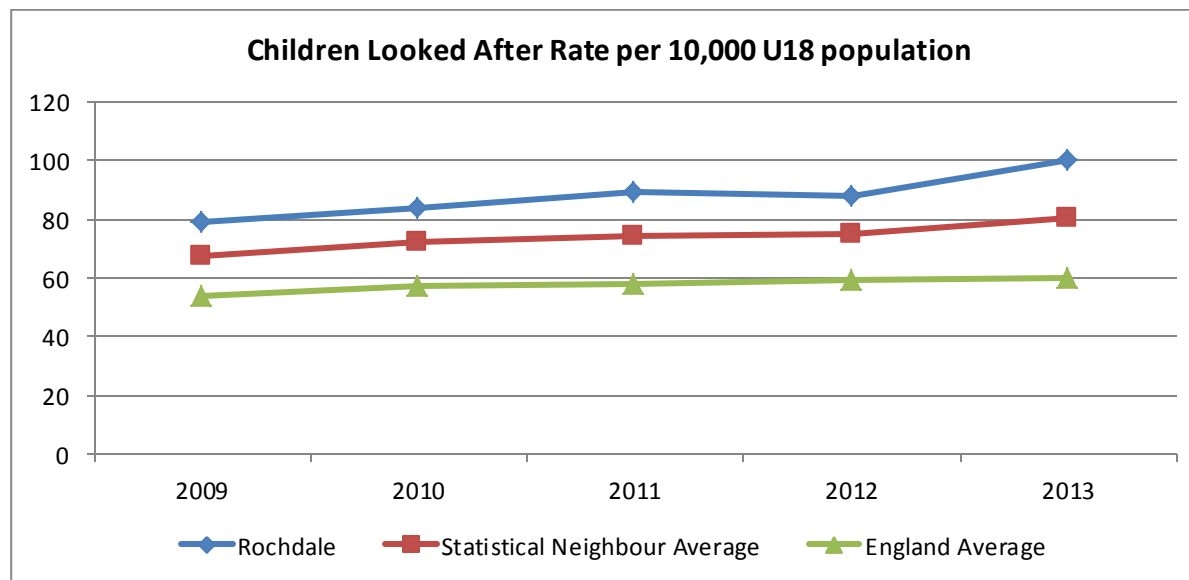
Numbers of Looked after Children

Set out below is the number of children who are looked after.

The number has increased by just over a 100 over the past five years.

This is within a context of a smaller increase of children subject to a child protection plan and increase in the number of children in need.

Financial Year Ending	Number of children subject to Child Protection	Numbers of Looked after children	Total numbers of children in need
2009	140	406	N/A
2010	190	435	1958
2011	202	457	1998
2012	229	451	2114
2013	230	508	2284



In short there has been a 20% increase in the number of children looked after over the past five years - 11% increase in the past 12 months.

In comparison with our statistical neighbours Rochdale has historically looked after a high proportion of the children, higher than the majority of our neighbours. The last five years the majority of our statistical neighbours have seen increase in the proportion of children in care – however Rochdale’s increase has been more significant in the past 12 months.

<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Halton	56	52	45	44	51
Oldham	57	62	60	57	61
Bradford	67	66	65	66	64
Kirklees	53	58	61	66	67
Calderdale	60	59	72	78	73
Tameside	68	73	77	80	80
Bolton	68	75	81	80	83
Walsall	74	79	82	77	91
<b>Rochdale</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>
Middlesbrough	87	101	104	111	114
St Helens	85	95	94	92	121
<b>Statistical Neighbour Average</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>
<b>England Average</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>

## Who are the children?

### Age Profiles

Of those children looked after on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 the majority of the children became looked after from the age of 0-4. However a significant minority number were aged 5 to 11.

These children are more likely to remain in care long term and less likely to secure permanence through adoption or Special Guardianship.

Age Band	Number on
	31-Mar-13
0 – 4	226
5 – 10	158
11 – 15	108
16+	16
Total	508

Age Band	Number on
	31-Mar-13
0 – 4	125
5 – 10	161
11 – 15	142
16+	80
Total	508

The table above outlines the age profile of the children in care as of March 31st. This age profile is consistent with the significant number of children who had become looked after following the fifth birthday.

## Ethnicity Profile

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>LAC Population</b>	<b>Children Population</b>
African	6	
Bangladeshi	9	
Caribbean	1	
Other Asian	6	
Other Black	1	
Other Ethnicity	26	
Other Mixed	14	
Other White	2	
Pakistani	12	
White Asian	15	
White Black African	6	
White Black Caribbean	3	
White British	403	
White Irish	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	

The analytical work that has been carried out to date indicates the looked after children population is consistent with the ethnicity profile of children in the borough. Early analysis would suggest a picture similar to that of national picture with over representation of children from dual or mixed parentage.

### Age and Legal Status Profiles

There were a total of 669 children in care between November 2012 and October 2013. The table below shows their age range and legal status when they came into care:

<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Interim Care Order	121	88	28		237	35.8
Full Care Order	4	2	1	1	8	1.2
On Remand			4	2	6	0.9
Police Protection Order	46	19	15	1	81	12.2
Emergency Protection Order	23	15	4	3	45	6.8
Section 20	117	85	64	19	285	43.1
Total	311	209	116	26	662	
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

This suggests that a number of children became looked after in an emergency in the past 12 months including older children.

The Journey of Children in Care in Rochdale MBC has enabled a better understanding of the history of contact and intervention with these children and context for police protection and emergency protection orders.

This analysis has included what was the outcome of this period care.

A review of the children who were looked after from April 2012 to March 2013 set out below confirms that although the largest number of children who become looked after are under the age of four. However, the largest group in care is aged between 5-10 with a slightly smaller group aged 11- 15; it is these children who have been protected from significant harm through public law care proceedings and are subject to a care order tend to remain in the care of the council and require a permanent placement. The following table illustrates the legal status of children in care.

<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>Total</b>
Interim Care Order	69	37	18	3	127
Full Care Order	15	88	103	51	257
Freeing Order	0	1	1	0	2
Placement Order	39	31	1	0	71
Remand	0	0	1	0	1
Police Protection Order	0	0	1	0	1
Section 20	2	4	17	26	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>508</b>

h

## Overview of Need

Set out below are the needs classification codes of the children who were looked after during the period of April 2012 a March 2013. This suggests overwhelming majority of the children will have experienced abuse and or neglect and as such will have developmental delays and specific needs. The significant minority of children whose admission coincided with acute family stress / dysfunction also suggest the complex relationships with family members and the needs of the range of needs of the parents

<b>Need</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>Total</b>
Abuse or Neglect	93	116	96	40	345
Disability	1	1	2	5	9
Parental Illness	2	4	8	7	21
Family in Acute Stress	19	22	25	15	81
Family Dysfunction	9	14	9	9	41
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	1	2	0	1	4
Absent Parenting	0	2	2	3	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>508</b>



### Where are the children placed?

#### By Provider

The majority of children were placed with in house provider including one of the three children's homes with a RMBC approved foster carers.

In-house	291
External	217

#### By Location

Inside Boundary	324
Outside Boundary	184

The majority of children were placed within Rochdale – However 9 of the children how became looked after in 2012/13 were placed more than 20 miles away.

By placement Type

Placement	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+	Total
Adoptive Placements	16	4	0	0	20
Placed with other Foster Carer	84	119	85	23	311
Foster Placement with Relative or Friend	8	22	19	9	58
Placed with Parents	14	14	11	5	44
Independent Living	0	0	0	20	20
Children's Homes	0	2	23	18	43
Secure Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Prison/HMYOI	0	0	0	4	4
NHS/Mother & Baby Unit	3	0	0	0	3
Missing from Care	0	0	0	0	0
Residential School	0	0	2	0	2
Residential Care	0	0	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>508</b>

The majority of children are placed with family type placements - with foster carers, kinship carers, prospective adopters.

However there is significant minority of children who are placed in residential provision – group care, 2 under the age of 11.

In respect to care planning process there is a higher proportion of children placed with their parents and higher (than national average) of children placed in kinship care.

From a sufficient duty to Rochdale Cared for Children there are a number of children who are placed out of the borough and in provision externally sourced.

## **8.0 General Placement Sufficiency**

### **8.1. In-House Fostering Services**

This provision currently forms the backbone of our placements provision for looked after children.

Although in 2012/13 there was a small decrease – 2% - in the number of fostering households approved. This was offset by a higher occupancy rate with a 52% increase in the number of children in in house foster care during the past 12 months. However currently the in house service does not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of older children with the smaller number of carers approved for children over the age of 11.

Although the ability of the in-house service to provide placement to keep children together is better than the national average there is small number of carers – 24 % in total - who can accommodate larger sibling which is not sufficient to the number of children from these groups . The ethnicity profile – 93% white UK does not match the profile of children who are in care where 11% of children are from Black Ethnic Minority backgrounds.

Despite the number of older children in care only 13% of carers were approved long term – this compares to 40% of fostering households nationally.

There is also 3 specialist mother and baby foster carers despite the high number of children under 4 who become looked after and who are more likely to require this type of placement , there re no remand carers and no specific emergency carers only.

There is no specialist trained treatment foster carers – although there are 22 carers who have progressed to Level 4 skill payment.

The In house service has proportionally fewer carers – 24% in total - who have completed their CWDC training – compared to 52% nationally. Although 4% of children remained on in the foster care placement beyond 18 nationally – only 2 children were in such a placement in Rochdale.

#### **Targets to meet Sufficiency Duty for Foster Care**

Over the course of the three years we are seeking to secure a net increase of 36 recruited Carer households per year which would result in a net increase of approximately 72 foster placements (Recruited foster carer's are currently approved for between 1 and 3 children subject to their circumstances). The priority is to recruit foster carers who live in, or within reasonable distance of, the borough.

During the approval and review processes, where appropriate, applicants are dual approved, to enable greater placement availability i.e. short term, long term, emergency and respite. There are currently have 32 households who hold a dual approval status.

There is recognition that the availability of placements for young people over the age of 16 is limited and recruitment activity for carers of older young people is planned throughout 2014.

Skills to Foster training will continued to be offered on a monthly basis and aim to have 150 recruited carer households attending per year over the next 3 years.

There is specific recruitment process targeted to

1. increase the recruitment of foster carers from BME backgrounds by at least 3 recruited carer households per year,
2. increase the number of long term placements available by at least 10 carers households per year and
3. increase the capacity for carer's who can take larger sibling groups by at least 3 households per year.
4. increase the number of carer households who can provide care for older children by at least 8 per year.

In addition the recruitment will focus on recruitment of carers with the skill set and experience to be able to care for children who have additional needs.

## 8.2 Independent Fostering Agency Providers

In the light of an increase in the number of children who are looked Rochdale MBC has increasingly reliant on this provision of foster placements from the Independent sector as a means of supplementing our foster placement capacity.

As of March 2013 there were 20.2 % with IFA carers compared to 20.8 % in 2011/12. The increase in LAC children between these dates was 57.

Rochdale procures these placements via North West framework which has offered some control on cost and quality. In seeking to improve the location and care match of such provision, we have recognized that we need to improve our communication with providers, especially signaling our needs in respect to longer terms placement for older children in siblings and commissioning intentions to ensure that all children

whose needs can be safely met through a family placement are offered such a placement.

We expect to reduce our reliance on external sourced foster placements in particular those outside the borough by 30% over the course of three years. This will represent 31 placements.

### 8.3 **Prospective Adopters**

The historical myth that Rochdale is “adopter poor” is no longer a position that is accepted.

Building on the more pro-active in our approach in 2012/13 and we have consistently used a range of resources throughout the year to increase the public profile of the adoption service and to attract more prospective adoptive families to the service. This has included organising local community events and to actively promote adoption and to try and dispel the myths that exist in the public arena. We have also used media tools such as advertisements in local newspapers and radio advertisements to try and attract a diverse and as wide an audience as possible. The web site has been updated and now presents consistent branding. Initial reports confirm that this has increase the number of hits.

The response to this presence is being noted in the increase number of adopter enquiries is now being achieved. 2013/14 plans now include concentrated campaigns that are scheduled undertaken at strategic points in the year to ensure maximum public interest and return on a very limited budget.

In 2012-2013, the reliance on foster carers who then proceed to adopt children was complimented by a focus on recruiting more stranger adopters, from both within the local community and surrounding areas. As a result of robust monitoring into the effectiveness of the adoption recruitment strategy we will continue to implement new initiatives and widen placement options by developing a range of foster to adopt placement options to ensure that more children have a chance of achieving early permanency. We also want to increase prospective adoptive families available for sibling groups, older children with disabilities and from Black ,ethnic minority communities.

In the next three years, we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the resources used to improve adopter recruitment. We will continue to develop our Adoption Recruitment Strategy and recruit adopters for harder to place children within our child specific recruitment plans.

We believe achieving the best for our children also means working more effectively with our partners and continuing to build on our well established collaborative arrangements. We will continue to operate as part of the local Pennine Partnership in adopter recruitment and work collaboratively within the Adoption 22 consortium.

The target number of approved adoptive families in 2013 – 2014, is 21 adopters. As recruitment activity becomes more effective 2014-2015 the target will be 23 adoptive families approved rising to 26

#### 8.4 **Short Breaks, Respite and Shared Care**

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) has its own short breaks residential unit for disabled children and also commissions other residential and day provision for disabled children and young people through a short breaks framework contract with a number of suppliers. This framework contract began in August 2012, and our short breaks duty statement describes the way in which we commission our short breaks, how they are accessed and to ensure sufficient range and scope to meet need.

#### 8.5 **Residential Care**

As indicated Rochdale MBC will deliberately seeks to minimize the use of residential accommodation for looked after children, we recognize that there may be occasions when a residential placement is necessary and appropriate, and we will continue to use in house residential provision and short break facility for disabled children.

There are a total of 43 independent children's homes located in Rochdale, operated by 8 providers offering 1-3 bedded occupancy. To date Rochdale use of these providers has been limited with 38% of children placed in regulated children's homes outside of the boundary. This compares with 54% England Average and our statistical neighbor average of 43%

Over the course of three years we are seeking to reduce our reliance of externally sourced residential provision by 40% this will represent 21 placements the majority of which will be outside the boundary.

In 2014/15 a review of three in house group residential care providers – Martin Lane. Furness Road and Rugby Road - will be undertaken. These three residential providers represent a total 13 bed capacity. The review will consider the needs of the children who require residential group care for a period time, the capacity of the in house providers to meet the range of needs and to explore ways the services could be refocused to meet a greater number of these children needs in a more effective and timely way.

The review will report in May 2014.

## **9. Security**

### **9.1 Becoming Looked After**

All decisions that children will become looked after, including the decision to issue an application to the Family Proceedings Court, are made by the relevant Head of Service. Their decision is informed by the Social Worker's assessment of need, which will include the views of partner agencies working with the child and their family.

### **9.2 Change of Placement**

All requests for a change of placement are considered by the relevant Head of Service.

### **9.3. Placement Stability**

The recently established multi-agency Virtual Cared for Children Team is charged with reviewing interventions with children and young people who are deemed to be at risk of a placement move. The Team established operational Managers from Children's Social Care, Health and Education will be chaired by the Head of Service for Cared for Children. The Team will systematically review and amend practice in respect of placement searching, procurement, preparation and matching, will develop the multi-agency support available to placements and commission training and development in respect to achieving placement stability.

### **9.4 Progress Reports**

There is one monthly meeting at which managers are expected to provide detailed progress reports in respect to children placed in externally sourced provision. At this meeting team Managers are asked to report on progress with a plan which involved an externally sourced provision. This meeting seeks to ensure children placed away from the Borough are properly monitored and efforts to bring them closer to family and historical ties are continued (unless permanently placed and matched).

## **10. Impact and Risk**

- 10.1 The children in care commissioning plan aggregates all current and future activity, and has already addressed some issues of quality and some cost reduction through alternatives to residential placements. A remodeling of the care management decision making panels will manage down the necessity for placements through creative alternatives, developed through multi-agency fora. The main challenge comes from our ability to create and influence a local market of sufficiently high enough quality and supply within the Rochdale MBC, which is why this strategy and a market development strategy for all children and young people's provision, is required. It is crucial that decisions about placements and provision are made in the best interest of the child, ensuring stability, quality and a supportive and nurturing environment.

## **11. Next Steps**

- 11.1 Through this strategy, supporting strategies and some immediate remedial actions, Rochdale MBC expects to meet the aims of the Government's Sufficiency Guidance 2010 and the actions identified in the improvement notice by having:

- A good number of accommodation providers;
- A good range of accommodation;
- Mechanisms for commissioning appropriate high quality placements and service outside of the local area;
- A strategy for addressing supply issues;
- A variety of short breaks providers;
- A range of expertise amongst Foster Carers, with particular skills, knowledge and experience
- A range of provision for care leavers;
- A range of additional services for vulnerable children; and
- Planned stand-by and surplus provision



## 11.2 By March 2014

- Reviewed all 'out of Borough' placements, establishing their ongoing appropriateness, quality and value for money. Only where placements are coming to a natural end, or are no longer meeting assessed need, will plans be put in place to move children;
- Worked with the NW agreement and placing Local Authorities to engage with the 43 residential homes /8 providers in our Borough. We will also explore preferential local deals with these suppliers;
- Undertaken exploration of joint collaborative opportunities with neighbouring boroughs, in relation to Adopter support and recruitment.
- Appointment of permanent Commissioning Manager and Placement Officers

o

## By March 2015

- Undertaken a review of how all services are commissioned within Children's Social Care ensuring a joined up approach with health and education.
- Completed a review of in- house residential services and implemented the recommendations.
- Completed a review of CAMHS – LAC Service and implemented its recommendations.
- Implemented revised contract monitoring with external; providers including value added data and service user feedback.

By March 2016

- Tested readiness for in house services to be considered alongside external providers for placement searches and procurement.

## **12. Conclusion**

12.1 This strategy outlines our commitment and intent to achieve sufficient quality and range of local provision, quality education and health outcomes for looked after children, and to deliver permanency and stability for all of them. We are under no illusions about the major financial and other resource constraints that will have to be managed in pursuit of these goals, but neither are we under any illusions about our corporate parenting responsibilities, and the need to deliver demonstrably better outcomes for our looked after children.

**13. Appendix 1: Headline Data**

1) Overall Numbers (over 2009-2013):

CP as at 31 March	CP	LAC	CIN (includes CP & LAC)
2009	140	406	N/A
2010	190	435	1958
2011	202	457	1998
2012	229	451	2114
2013	230	506	2284

2) Which Ward do CiC come from (in 2013)?

Wards	CLA
Milkstone and Deeplish	57
Smallbridge and Firgrove	55
Balderstone and Kirkholt	52
Spotland and Falinge	45
Kingsway	43
North Heywood	41
West Middleton	36
West Heywood	30
Central Rochdale	29
Castleton	24
Hopwood Hall	15
Bamford	13
North Middleton	13
East Middleton	12
Milnrow and Newhey	11
Healey	8
Littleborough Lakeside	6
South Middleton	5
Wardle and West Littleborough	4
Norden	1

### 3) Placement type

Placement	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+	Total
Adoptive Placements	16	4	0	0	20
Placed with other Foster Carer	84	119	85	23	311
Foster Placement with Relative or Friend	8	22	19	9	58
Placed with Parents	14	14	11	5	44
Independent Living	0	0	0	20	20
Children's Homes	0	2	23	18	43
Secure Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Prison/HMYOI	0	0	0	4	4
NHS/Mother & Baby Unit	3	0	0	0	3
Missing from Care	0	0	0	0	0
Residential School	0	0	2	0	2
Residential Care	0	0	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>508</b>

4) Age profile now/Age profile at time became Looked After

Age range of Children in Care

Age Band	Number on
	31-Mar-13
0 – 4	125
5 – 10	161
11 – 15	142
16+	80
Total	508

Age profile at time became LAC

Age Band	Number on
	31-Mar-13
0 - 4	226
5 - 10	158
11 - 15	108
16+	16
Total	508

5) Ethnicity

<b>Ethnicity</b>	
African	6
Bangladeshi	9
Caribbean	1
Other Asian	6
Other Black	1
Other Ethnicity	26
Other Mixed	14
Other White	2
Pakistani	12
White Asian	15
White Black African	6
White Black Caribbean	3
White British	403
White Irish	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>

6) Analysis of placement type:

In-house	291
External	217

7) Analysis of placement type by

Inside Boundary	324
Outside Boundary	184

8) Use of independent fostering - In March 2014 confirmation of comparator authorities use will be sought from North West

Rochdale Data:

Month	IFA Placements
April	96
May	96
June	92
July	86
August	90
Sept	93
Oct	91
Nov	93
Dec	100
January	101
February	106
March	111

9) Use of external residential against other NW Authorities

33% of children who were placed in regulated children's homes – were placed outside the borders – This compares to 54% England average and 43%.



