Learning Brief August 2019 – 16 plus and Care Leavers - Getting To Good.

 Ofsted identified that preparation for independent living was not always effective or timely for our 16 plus and care leaver population. August’s audits hoped to review this statement. Unfortunately due to a low return, 8 out of 17, findings to challenge or confirm this statement were not possible. As a result this Learning Brief will reflect upon the features identified within the audits that were judged to be Good.

Risk –

* Detailed analysis of the impact from history and life events was located in the assessments and plans.
* Serafs were regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in circumstances
* Carers worked well with safety plans and sought to contain the YP wherever possible
* Management oversight reflected on the need to review plans to ensure they considered risk for the future.
* Communication between the carers, SW and professionals was timely, meaningful and ensured information was shared in an appropriate manner.

Involvement –

* Evidence of Regular visits with the YP where their voice was clearly recorded In case notes
* Assessments and Reviews contained the YP view, words and aspirations.
* Recording was detailed, analytical, up to date with the auditor obtaining a clear sense of the the YP, their needs and personality. – there was evidence of child centred work

Decision Making –

* Evidence of regular supervision and management oversight, supervision records contained critical reflection, challenge and evaluation of recent events
* Actions had clear timescales and were subsequently reviewed in order to minimise drift
* IRO footprint clearly located on case notes. Evidence of communication between the TM & IRO

Assessments & Agency Contribution -

* Assessments were up to date and informed by chronologies
* Assessments contained analysis of the child’s lived experience and subsequent impact on their current and future needs
* Health and Education contributed to the assessment and plan. PEPS were meaningful and informed the attendance, emotional support and education plan
* The views of the family alongside those of the YP was integrated throughout the assessment
* Assessments reflected the YP and their needs. Collaborative working was clearly evidenced within the assessment, plans, reviews and case notes.

Diversity –

* Personality and interests come alive from case notes and plans
* Evidence for consideration of identity through life story and family relationships
* Recognition of things that were important to the YP ie diet and life choices

Plans –

* PWP involved the YP and were recorded in a way that reflected their voice, wishes and aspirations.
* SMART objectives were easy to locate and were regularly reviewed.
* There was evidence of a clear designation of tasks, including tasks for the YP
* Scaling questions helped to demonstrate what was changing within the plan
* PEPs and health assessments were integrated into the overall care plan
* Family and carers were involved in the care plan, working towards shared and common future goals. – sense of shared responsibility and ownership.

Permanence & independence. –

* Evidence of planning for the future. – PWP reflected future needs, goals and aspirations.
* Evidence of meaningful consultation with Family members, carers and YP clearly recorded in terms of their thoughts around permanence planning
* Steps to independence was set out, with shared and individual tasks recorded – trajectory of next steps was clear
* The Relationship between the carer and SW helped to secure the placement and enabled early discussions to take place regarding permanence options

Reviews –

* Case recording from the IRO helped to bring the YP alive
* Evidence of participation and clear recording of the YP voice , wishes and feelings
* Timeliness of reviews and use of scaling to reflect the YP journey.
* Evidence of family placements working alongside SW for stability for the YP
* Proactive carers asking for support and being actively involved in care plans and actions
* Evidence of relationships between carers and family members and working to support the YP in different aspects of their life and care plan

Signs of Safety –

* Evidence of mapping, scaling and strength based approach, scaling questions were used to demonstrate progress
* Supervision referred to S of S
* Case records and assessments indicated S of S principles of respect and participation.

**So,** **what does Good Look Like**? – Early Planning, Collaboration & strong relationships.

Useful Links - RIP link - <https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/strategic-briefings/care-leaver-transitions-strategic-briefing-2017/>

 <https://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed68903> Case Law on the importance of Pathway Planning –

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf> - Care Planning Regs

 Care Enquiry - <https://thecareinquiry.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/care-inquiry-full-report-april-2013.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/leaving-foster-or-local-authority-care> Statutory Guidance on Leaving Care