Introduction

The Children and Young People’s Placement Services [CYPPS] is a County wide service that consists of 2 teams – Placement Finding [sources all placement requests] and Quality & Improvement Team [undertakes Q&I tasks linked to external providers and sources CYPWD home support packages] and both teams are based in County Hall in Chelmsford.

The CYPPS’s aspirations are for children and young people to have well matched placements both in-house and externally that meet their assessed needs and the care provided meets the expected standards laid out by Essex County Council.

The Placement Finding Team is responsible for the in-take of placement requests and   undertaking all placement searches and works in conjunction with all the fostering teams, and quadrant child care teams to ensure that best matched placements for children and young people are made.

Placement Finding process- how it works:

* All referral requests for a placement are to made to CYPPS via Placement Referrals Form via Mosaic, this is then allocated to a Placement Officer who will be responsible for undertaking the placement search and matching. Referrals are accepted for both emergency or planned placements
* The referral is quality assured and redacted before the Placement Officer sends the referral to any potential providers- in-house and external fostering, residential, 16+ accommodation etc.
* The in-house Fostering Teams foster carers/ supported lodging carers vacancy lists are checked for potential matches for the child/ young person against the carers approval and experience of the carer.
* Contact is made with potential carers/external providers and the referral request is discussed. If the carers is willing to consider the placement further they are provided with a redacted referral to review the request further.
* The child’s/ young person’s Social Worker is provided with all potential matches and notifies the Placement Officer of the preferred carer/match.
* The preferred carer is contacted to confirm they are willing to accept the referral and once confirmed this information is shared with the child/ young person’s social worker and the carers SSW so that further arrangements for visits/move in date can be made ~~p~~
* The carers that have not been chosen on that occasion are notified by the Placement Officer so that feedback can be provided.
* If the placement is agreed the carers profile is provided to the social worker for sharing with the child/ young person before being placed.
* As part of the completion of the placement finding process, the Placement Officer, triggers the payment for the child/ young person via Mosaic

Placement Finding process

* As part of a placement search CYPS will explore any additional questions a carer may have about a referral to enable them to make the right decision for offering a placement.
* CYPPS will liaise with the carers supervising social worker where possible to discuss potential matchings.  However, this is dependent on the urgency of the referral request.
* Where practical introductions visits can take place before a carer or the child/ young person make a decision on a placement.
* Matching with other placements and care own family is always considered.

Quality and Improvement Team

Working alongside our Placement Finding Colleagues, the Q&I team ensure providers produce outcomes identified at the point of placement.

Working with three Placement Monitoring Officers and two Senior Practitioners, the team cover the spectrum of external providers i.e.

Independent Fostering Agencies, Residential Childrens Homes, providers of Semi-Independent accommodation, and Homecare Support for children and young people with disabilities.

We carry out annual health & safety checks and quality assurance checks on all Semi-Independent providers, to ensure that young people are being cared for, and that their needs are being met.

For those young people living in external Foster homes and Residential Childrens Homes, we will ensure any that when concerns are raised, as a result of an Ofsted Inspection, these responded to; this will include ~~involve~~ us in working with the provider to ensure an adequate Action Plan is developed to address the concerns raised and this is then monitored by a member of the team to ensure its efficacy in dealing with the concerns.

The team also work alongside colleagues from the Police, Health, Education, Housing, Providers, the local community, if/when issues of concern arise.

Another aspect of the Q&I teams’ role is to work alongside colleagues in Commercial to ensure that we have an adequate supply of good quality accommodation/provision for children and young people and to work with providers to identify areas of developments/concerns.