

Supporting care leavers

Welcome

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Committee and Strategic Director for People,
Salford City Council



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

THE COCOON

A large, bold, green word 'THE COCOON'. The letters are designed to look like they are hanging from a horizontal green line that has a wavy, leaf-like shape at both ends. A detailed green butterfly is positioned on the right side of the letter 'N'.

Tim Aldridge – Director of Children's Services

London Borough of Havering

The Case for Change

- Step-change in our approach to working with young people was required
 - SIF Inspection 2016 – Leaving Care service judged inadequate
 - Safeguarding Adults Review
- Face to Face Pathways
 - £2.4million DfE Innovation Funding to develop, test and share effective ways of supporting children who need social care services

Why the Cocoon?

- Young people told us they wanted a space that they had ownership of
- Co-produced from conception, design and ongoing delivery





How does it work?

- Governed and run by the Youth Management Team
- Space to meet with workers, hold events, run activities or spend time with friends
 - Informal and practical support, e.g. 'Fry-Up Friday'
- Partners based there: Leaving Care, Housing, DWP, Virtual School, Systemic Therapist; Social Work team, Youth Service; Health; Participation Officer
- Also used for youth-led staff training, Corporate Parenting Panel, SLT meetings and Directors' Surgeries

Highlights

- Cocoon Opening Event October 2017
- Christmas Day 2017
- Easter Day 2018
- Transitions Group
- Youth Management Team Away Day
- See Change Films projects
- Basti Ram India Project
- Job Fair supported by local businesses



The Cocoon – what is the impact?

- Care experienced young people and care leavers are in control and hold responsibility for the space
 - **'YMT takes involvement of young people in cocoon to the next level'**
- Youth-led groups widen the engagement to other young people, developing new skills and promoting peer support and delivery
- Young people are paid for their time meaning they are committed, valued and more willing to have ownership
- Cultural shift in staffs way of working
- Enabled re-engagement of young people who previously weren't engaging with service
- Young people have received emotional well-being support

THE | HOUSE PROJECT

Mark Warr – Director

Sue Hammersley- Social Care and therapeutic lead

THE | HOUSE PROJECT

Building better futures with Care Leavers

The House Project builds sustainable homes and
a community of support with young people
leaving care that enables them to have a
positive future.

Context

- 2012 – Stoke-on-Trent
- 2015 - DfE Innovation Phase1 Funding
- 2017 - DfE Innovation Phase 2 Funding
 - Five local authorities
 - National hub
- 2020 – Phase 3
 - Funding models
 - Scalability

Stoke House Project

- Poor local outcomes mirrored national findings
- Feedback- ‘edge of cliff’..... ‘not ok!’

Solution

- HP provides structure to manage the challenges of independent living
 - Opportunity to experience control ownership and pride
 - Comprehensive coordinated support to be safe and succeed as co-owners and managers of their housing organisation
 - Community of support

Support to Project

- Two f/t facilitators – independent living skills
- Clinical Psychology supervision (formulation)
- Trainee / apprenticeships (expectation of EET)
- Dev of communication / training skills via documentary maker and engagement / participation input (Foster focus)
- Ongoing SW / PA support

Stoke model

- 10 x 16 yr plus with min 3 at 16 or 17
- Void properties to the HP at peppercorn rate
- Internal remedial costs to HP – gain skills
- £188k grant pa from LA– (covers staffing, rent, utilities)
- 3x 16/17 yr olds from residential cost (average £160k)
- Tenancies to the HP so not the LA (HRA)
 - U 18 - assured shorthold licence
 - 18 plus- assured shorthold tenancy
 - Transition out to HRA- remain in house

Outcomes in Stoke

Making a house a home: the house project evaluation. DfE
March 2017

- “good progress towards achieving its aims and intended outcomes, albeit slower than planned”
- “significant progress in achieving its aims by creating considerable opportunities and potential for young people to support each other to develop the skills...self-confidence needed to make a positive transition to independent living”.

Outcomes in Stoke

- Evaluation identified 8/10 placements stable and EET
- Young people reported
 - Increased confidence, communication skills and feelings of community and isolation
 - Welcomed chance to choose and create own home- and access to individual/flexible support
- Currently 7 positive placements
 - 3 remain in HP properties
 - 2 graduated from HP properties to HRA tenancies
 - 2 moved in planned way with partners/extended family
- Recruiting young people to the project

Edward Timpson, Minister for Children ADCS Conference 2015

“...many of you are going further – reforming and not only achieving better results for vulnerable children, but also better value for money”

“...it puts the young people in charge of the support they receive, and helps them build the skills and experience they require to live independently. If it works, we have to think hard about how to share that experience with other LAs.”

Phase 2 Innovation

- Islington, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Doncaster, Rotherham
- Pilot in different conditions - housing etc
- £390k over three years
 - Staffing in place
 - Young people identified and involved in YPNSG
 - Committed to independent organisation
- Evaluation

National Hub

- Recruit staff
 - PSO, Engagement/Participation Officer, Apprentice
- Support 5 LA's inc fidelity to model
- Establish governance (Trust/YPNSG)
- Set up national charity
- Develop evidence base – evaluation
- Sustainable funding models / social investment / scalability (business model)
- EET Pathway with accredited qualifications

Scalability

- Evidence base for improved outcomes
- Guidance / proformas / performance framework
- Finance
 - Modelling to offset ‘set up’ costs by cost avoidance – reduced placement costs
 - Social impact investments
 - Philanthropy to fund set up costs – reduced placement costs
 - Franchising models (social care, supervision, psychology)
 - Three LA’s currently actively engaged.
 - Welsh Gov’t interested as part of care leaver offer

Further information

Video of the House Project in action can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuF2ok1aGiIWwKSV1ZZ0vtg>

For further information, please contact either Mark or Sue:

Mark Warr, Director - House Project National Hub

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Sue Hammersley, Social Care and Therapeutic Lead

sue@thehouseproject.org / 07500 779 111

*Working Together to Develop and Deliver a
Greater Manchester Care Leaver's Trust*

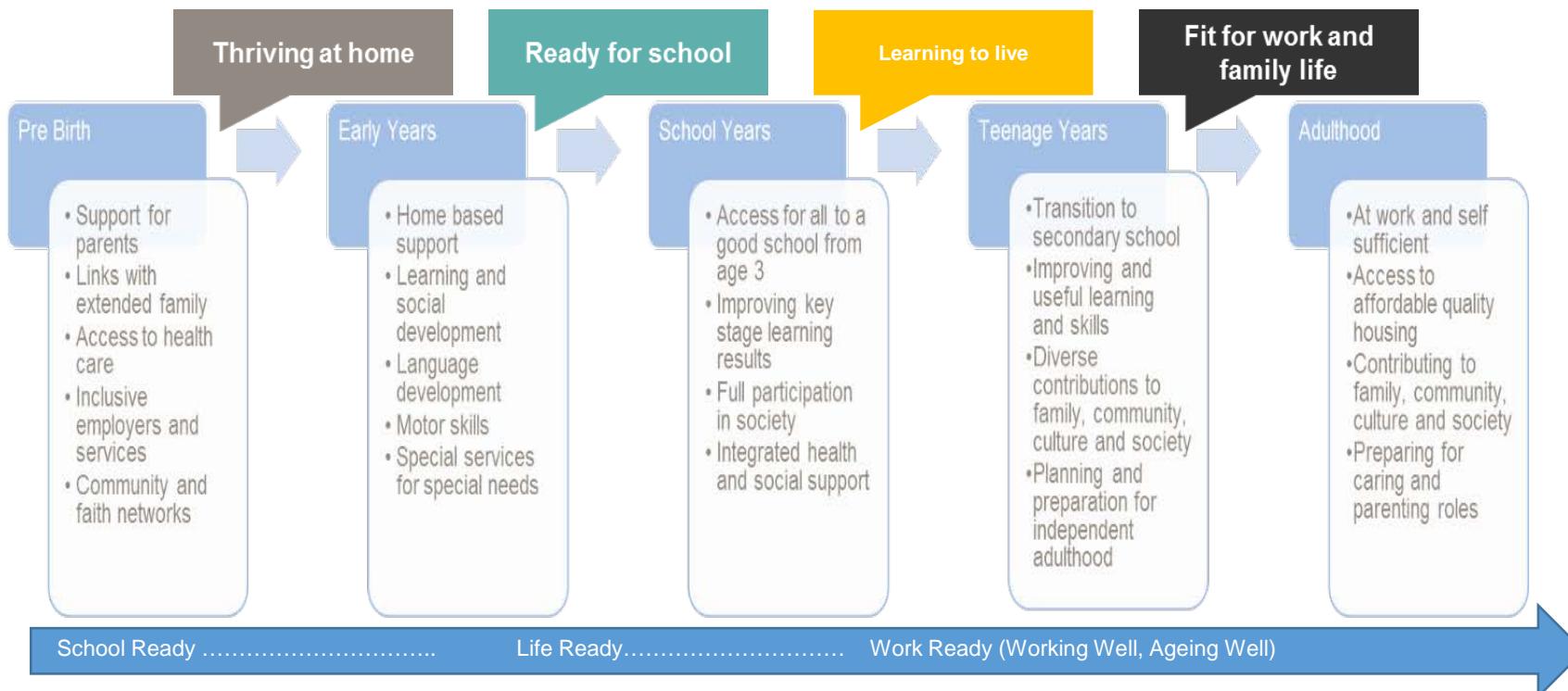
Paul Marshall

Strategic Director of Children and Education Services,
Manchester City Council

Greater Manchester Priority 2 Life Readiness – Background

The ambition for life readiness is that ***all young people have the life skills to make a successful transition into adulthood with the right support needed to reach their full potential.***

Although there is no single measure to determine life readiness, we know that we must work towards delivering the optimal child journey; wrapping **early intervention support** around children and families who are not experiencing this optimal journey, from early years through to adult life. This will be supported by **building up community and family resilience**.



Greater Manchester Review of Children's Services

History of collaboration across Greater Manchester

£7.4m DfE innovation grant funding:

- Complex Safeguarding (Achieving Change Together)
- Edge of Care
 - Salford Strengthening Families
 - No Wrong Door
- Stockport Families
- Commissioning and Market Management for Looked After Children
- Care Leaver Trust
- Greater Manchester Safeguarding Standards Board

1 Priority

Reduce the LAC population by 1000 by 2020 and deliver a consistent yet flexible 'offer' to enable care leavers across the region to live a safe, happy, healthy and successful life.

Care Leavers

A Care Leaver is young person who has been looked after in the social care system.

There is statutory duty to provide care and support to Care Leavers until they reach the age of 21, or 25, if they are in full time education or have a disability.

The new Children & Social Work Bill includes the following:

- Standards for how local authorities should act as a ‘corporate parent’ to support children in care and as they move into adult life.
- A requirement on local authorities to consult on and publish a ‘local offer’ to care leavers, setting out the services they are entitled to.
- An extension to the right to a Personal Adviser, someone who will make sure care leavers receive the support they need as they transition into adulthood, to all who want one up to the age of 25.

Young people who are Care Leavers have the right to on going support from Local Authorities, including financial support where they continue in education.

What is a Corporate Parent?

'As the corporate parent of children in care, the state has a special responsibility for their wellbeing. Like any other parent they should put children first.

This means all staff working for public bodies being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping children to make a success of their lives.'

Care Leavers most prospective outcomes

Research* suggests that care leavers outcomes are not determined solely by the quality of the leaving care support they receive – although an important factor. **Their experiences before and during care are also important determinants of their outcomes .**

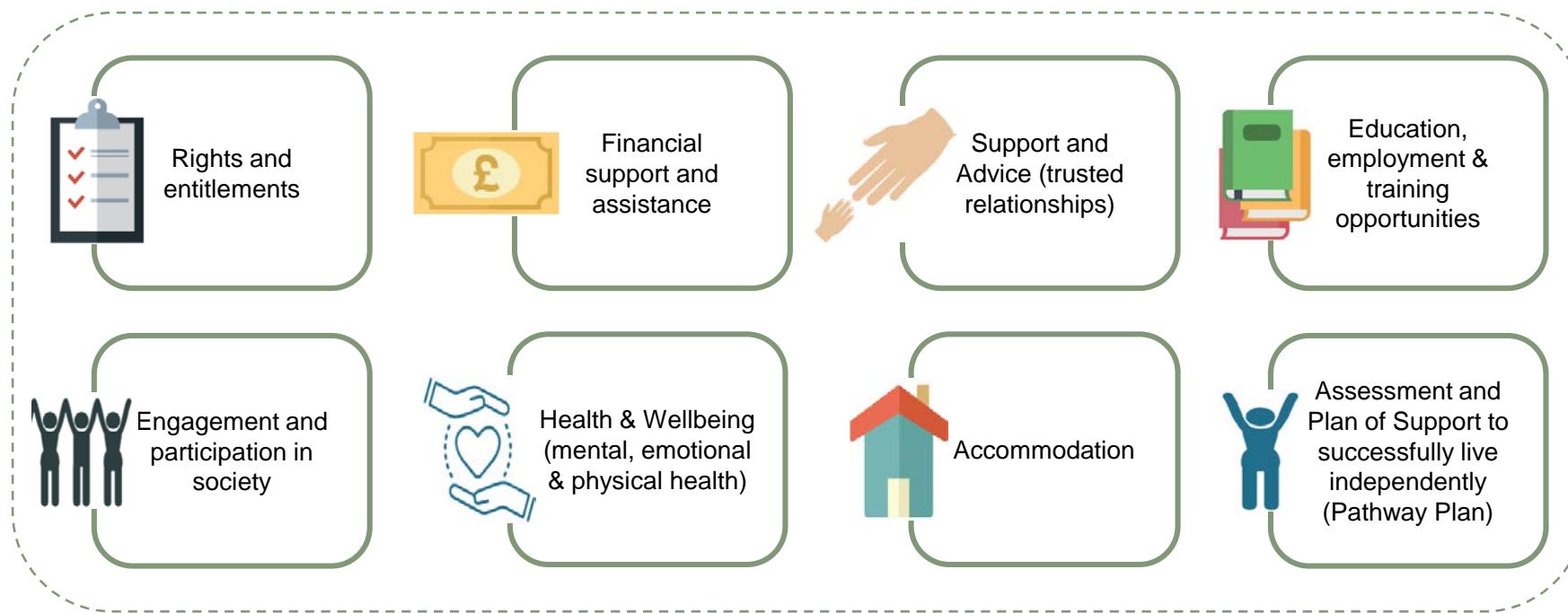
Care leavers also face the added challenge of having to cope with the demands of living on their own at a young age: having to manage finances, maintain a home and manage their lives independently, often without the support from families that most of us take for granted.

That is why it is crucial that the public sector, as their Corporate Parent, do as much as possible to give care leavers the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

*Keep on Caring, Government Report, 2016

Basic Offer – Care Leavers

Two workshops have been held with Local Authority providers and stakeholders. Discussions during the workshops highlighted that the statutory offer for Care Leavers should respond to:



Group discussions also highlighted that entitlements and offers vary across Greater Manchester.

Strengths based approach – ‘Quick Wins’ to build confidence

There are levers that GM can use to achieve ‘quick wins’ in terms of building a targeted offer for vulnerable groups. For looked after children and care leavers, these include:



Council Tax exemptions for all Care Leavers, until the age of 25, across GM irrespective of ‘home authority’ ✓



Establish an agreed ‘standard’ for Greater Manchester’s care leavers



Free transport offer for Looked After Children and Care Leavers at 16 years of age



Housing priority for Care Leavers extended from 21 to 25 years of age



DWP no cut off age / date for support – “*once our child, always our child*”



Mental Health Services / CAMHS commissioned for Looked After Children to 25 years of age

Health Offer – Current Landscape

Mental health for LAC: Our understanding

Local authorities and the GM Health & Social Care Partnership have collaborated to create a development budget to **begin a range of GM transformation programmes** including the needs of LAC, those adopted and care leavers.

Designated nurses for LAC in GM have developed a **LAC Strategy with EHWB being a key theme.**

The Strategic Clinical network is coordinating a work-stream to develop an options paper to **inform improved quality and reduced unwarranted variation in the delivery of mental health support for GM's LAC.**

Future in Mind recommended **improvements in meeting the mental health needs of LAC**, those adopted, and those leaving care, and actions reflected in GM's 10 LTPs.

All CCGs currently commission targeted mental health support for LAC – the historical joint commissioning **budgets have been reduced as a consequence of changes to LA funding**

Health Offer – Objectives and Ask

OBJECTIVES

1. Be multi- agency and multi-disciplinary
2. Develop effective planning and service development whole GM system scoping is required.
3. Develop minimum expectation of provision across GM for inclusion in all service specifications for CYP mental Health Services
4. Identification and escalation of cross boundary issues within GM i.e. when children cannot get care if placed outside their authority
5. Identification and escalation of issues around tier 4 step down within GM
6. To proposed minimum data set for EHWB and LAC
7. Share Local pathways – best practice

OUTCOME / ASK

Develop proposals to inform a **core mental health offer for all of GM's LAC**; informed by a single specification, GM standards & pathway. The service spec will be an appendix of the single specification for C&YP mental health services

OUTCOME / ASK

A small MA cross GM task and Finish group is established

OUTCOME / ASK

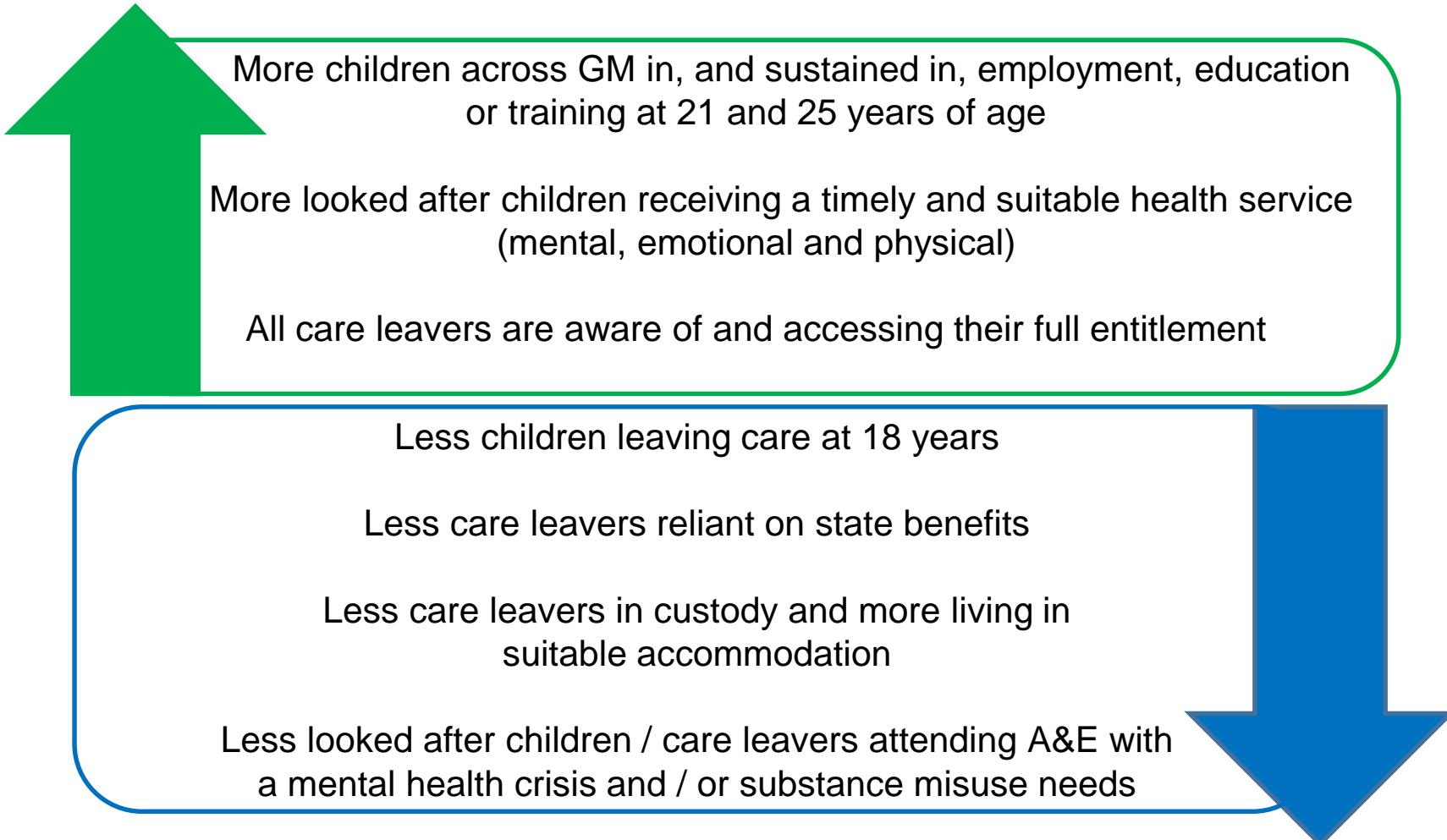
Develop C&YP centred and outcomes & **THRIVE** informed pathway for looked after children, those adopted and care leavers who have mental health problems

OUTCOME / ASK

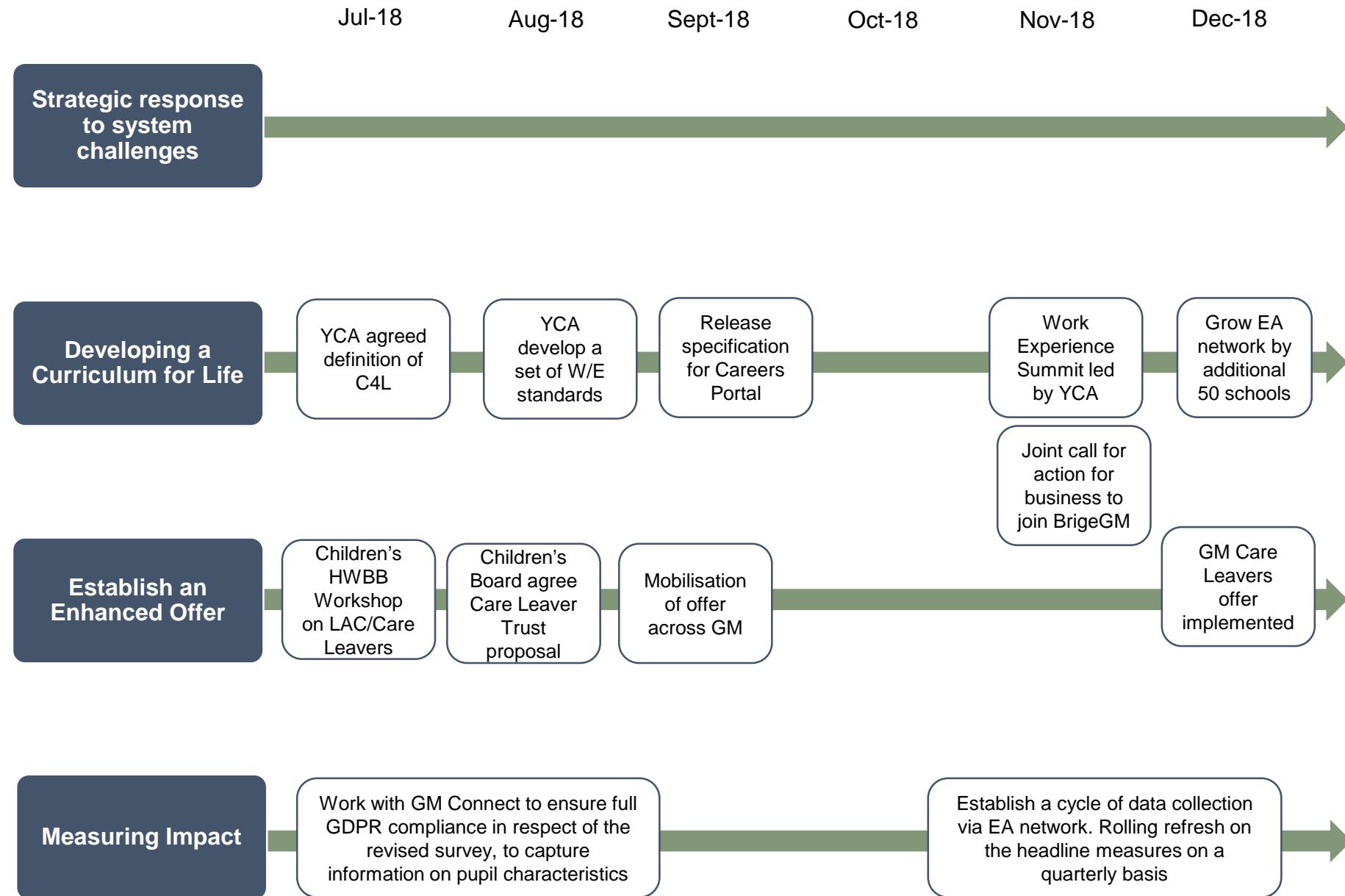
Link with THRIVE / ACE work-stream as 90% of LAC have had experiences of abuse trauma and loss

Measures of Success across GM

A consistent entitlement for all of GM's Care Leavers that reflects the 'best' offer; irrespective of residences and /or home address, evidenced by:



Focus Areas – Next Steps



Questions?

Have you considered joining the Health, Care & Additional Needs Policy Committee?

Visit www.adcs.org.uk/committees/hcanpc
for further information