

**QUALITY PROTECTS PROGRAMME: MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (MAP)
IV 2002 - 2003**

Executive Summary

The Quality Protects Programme was designed as a time limited modernisation improvement programme to transform services to children. The programme began in 1999 and the final grant payment will be made in 2003 for the forthcoming year. Payment of the special grant is subject to approval of a satisfactory MAP, which was submitted to the Department of Health on the 31st January 2002. The MAP must be endorsed by the appropriate council Committee with Social Services responsibility. A report submitted to cabinet (Social and Health Services) was agreed on 17th January 2002. This report from The Director's of Social Services and Personnel and Policy details the proposals for posts to be created for 2002 – 03 (See attached appendix).

1 The Quality Protects Grant

- 1.1 The grant settlement for 2002 / 03 is made up of £993,000 from the main grant, £108,000 ring-fenced for children with disabilities, £68,000 ring-fenced for I.T. for looked after children totalling £1,169,000. This constitutes the same amount of funding as last year.
- 1.2 £2,169,000 ring-fenced for children leaving care. This is a continuation of existing funding established in the financial year 2001 / 02. A separate but related report on children leaving care is also available to Cabinet which confirms proposals for developing the service also contained in this report.

A total grant of £3,338,000 for service developments across key priority areas for modernisation.

2 Key Features of MAP IV

- 2.1 The priority areas for the grant this year remain the same as the previous year 2002, with the addition of the ring-fenced element for increased access to I.T. Priority areas are:
 - Increasing placement choice through adoption, foster and residential placements

- Improving the life chances of looked after children with particular attention to education and health needs, better opportunities for leisure, arts and sporting activities and reducing offending.
- Improving assessment, planning and record keeping.
- Participation and involvement of young people and access to independent advocacy and rights services.
- Managing change, including workforce analysis, effective and safe recruitment and strengthening the governance of childrens services.
- Improving quality assurance systems to ensure services are delivered according to requirement and regulation.

And for the three ring-fenced elements:

- Implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, including accommodation, assistance, training and employment and provision of personal advisors.
- Services for disabled children should be targeted on increased short term breaks, improved leisure services, information to parents on services and increased key workers.
- Information Technology for children looked after must be spent on capital expenditure such as computers, scanners and printers. It cannot be used for recurrent costs such as training. It is intended to help children with schoolwork and develop communication skills for those leaving care as well as those children already in council care.

3. Proposals for Creation of Posts

- 3.1 Care Leavers: The implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 in October 2001 will require a number of posts to improve practice and meet regulatory requirements of the Act. The posts of Personal Advisors are a requirement for each Care Leaver in order that their career, training, education. Housing, social and health needs are met. The Personal Youth Advisor will be employed by the youth service and support the strategic development of youth services for all care leavers. The two posts of Reviewing Officers will be managed by the Quality Unit as an independent arm to assess standards and quality for pathway plans for care leavers. In addition they will be required to review foster carers on an annual basis. The additional staff within the Care Leavers Team will require administrative support to ensure pathway plans and reviews adhere to national standards.
- 3.2 Children with Disabilities: one social worker post is required to recruit foster carer for respite care. The Quality Protects Programme requires that there is placement choice for all children and at present there are

insufficient carers for this group of children who have complex physical and emotional needs.

4 Main Grant

- 4.1 There are a number of posts required from the main grant to build on the improvements already made. This will involve the establishment of four practitioner posts to meet the demands of the National Assessment Framework on timescales for Initial and Core Assessments and ensure that good practice is embedded in early intervention. Cabinet are not being asked to establish these posts yet, as we need to establish a departmental job description. A Transitional Officer for Disabilities is required for children 15 years + who will inevitably require services from adult social care services, including health education and physical care needs. It is expected this post will work with adult services to ensure smooth transition from childhood to adulthood. A Family Placement Social Worker, part time, to expand the therapeutic fostering scheme which has five carers currently. This will support another two placements for hard to place children. 1 admin assistant post to support the additional activity on foster care recruitment.

5 Financial and Staffing Implications

The financial implications are addressed by the funds made available from the Quality Protects Special Grant.

6 Equal Opportunities Implications

The Quality Protects Initiative is part of the Governments programme to tackle Social Inclusion of children and their families and sets out objectives for improving the life chances of children in need. The posts and funds identified in this report will combat social inequality and exclusion.

7 Human Rights Implications

The Quality Protects Initiative is central to improving overall Local Authority services to children and their families and specifically requires elected members to satisfy themselves that any action taken is compatible with Convention Rights.

8 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None are emerging from this report.

9 Community Safety Implications

Reducing incidents of racial crime and harassment is central to this Initiative in drawing up any proposals for action reducing and ultimately eliminating incidents of racial discrimination and crime will be a key theme.

10 Planning Implications

None are emerging from this report.

11 Local Member Support Implications

The corporate parenting agenda which is central to the Quality Protects programme required, all elected members to champion the welfare of looked after children.

12 Background Papers

LASSL (2001) 20.

13 Recommendations

Cabinet agrees to establish the posts detailed in the attachment.

KEVIN MILLER
Director of Social Services

BOB WILLIAMS
Director of Personnel

Caroline McKenna
Quality Manager
Ext. no 639 0761

Date 7.3.02

Appendix I

The posts required under MAP IV (ring-fenced and non ring fenced) areas are as follows:

1. Quality Protects Main Grant

	<u>Salary Cost</u>	<u>On Costs</u>
▪ 1 Transitional Officer (social worker) for Disabilities	17,823	5,488
▪ 0.5 Family Placement Support Worker – Therapeutic Fostering	8,911	2,031
▪ 1 Administrative Assistant (Scale 3) for Foster Care Recruitment	12,618	3,078

2. Children (Leaving Care)

▪ 1 Personal Youth Advisor (JNC3)	26,500	6,042
▪ 0.5 Personal Advisor / Welfare Benefits Officer (SO2)	10,856	4,882
▪ 1 Personal Advisor (SO1)	19,770	4,882
▪ 2 Reviewing Officers for Pathway Plans (PO6)	50,946	12,638
▪ 1 Administrative Assistant (Scale 2)	11,817	2,824
▪ 1 Social Worker - Children with Disabilities	17,823	5,488