

Staying Safe.

The social care
perspective



The context in each area

- a Sure Start team running the children's centres and associated services
- a School and Community Support team co-ordinating support for children of school age
- a Youth and Connexions Service team for 14-19 year olds
- a Safeguarding team dealing with child protection, family support and care issues.

What are the social care tasks?

- 401 children and young people in public care
- 130 children on the Child Protection Register
- Children in need- eg support services to children who are disabled, families under pressure, young people who misuse substances
- Young people who offend
- Ongoing duty to care leavers until 21 or later
- Assessing and supporting people who foster or adopt

How services are organised

- Safeguarding team in each of the area teams
- Integrated Children's Disability Service- including two residential units
- Fostering Agency
- Adoption Agency
- Multi agency Youth Offending Team
- Clermont Child Protection Unit
- Substance Misuse Service
- Leaving Care and Asylum Team
- Hospital team at the Royal Alex.

What do we do well?

- Adoption performance is very good
- Good child protection performance
- Good participation of children in their reviews
- Residential services are high quality
- Outcomes for care leavers are good.
- Improving performance on health and education targets for children in care.
- Good services for severely disabled children

What are the challenges?

- Stability of children in placements
- Recruitment of enough foster carers
- JAR found some evidence of delay in lower level family support cases
- Some children in care allocated to non social work qualified staff/some care leavers held on duty
- High numbers of children in care = high costs

Final messages

- Staying safe as a continuum
- Keeping children safe is everyone's business