



Implementation of the Care Matters White Paper

Detailed Action Log (March 2008)



department for
children, schools and families



HM Government

ADCS
Leading Children's Services



Local Government Association

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Implementation of the *Care Matters* White Paper: Detailed Action Log (March 2008)

This paper supplements the implementation plan *Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care*. It aims to provide a detailed log of each of the commitments set out in the *Care Matters* White Paper, published in June 2007, with a date for implementation and a description of how each action is being taken forward.

The log frequently refers to parts of the statutory and regulatory framework. There are five key components to this framework:

- The Children and Young Persons Bill, which at time of writing is currently progressing through Parliament. Each commitment which refers to the Bill is, of course, subject to Parliamentary approval. Commencement of the different provisions in the Bill will follow over the next three years, with some provisions commencing as early as autumn 2008.
- Regulations (primarily under the Children Act 1989 as amended) will need to be amended or introduced in light of the Bill and to deliver particular White Paper commitments.
- Statutory and other guidance: we will review and consult on the existing statutory guidance that supports the Children Act 1989, and many of the commitments in the White Paper will be reflected in this guidance in 2009. We are also committed to placing guidance relating to the health of looked after children on a statutory footing for health as well as children's services, which will form part of this overall set of guidance, but will be consulted on ahead of the rest of the package in 2008.
- The National Minimum Standards relating to services for looked after children. These are being reviewed, and will be consulted upon later in 2008.
- The performance framework for local government, including the new inspection regime for local government being introduced from April 2009. This will include a rolling programme of inspection of services for children in care, which is being developed by Ofsted.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
Chapter 1: Corporate Parenting – Getting it Right			
1.	We expect every LA to establish a Children in Care Council.	From April 2008.	LAs should be putting arrangements in place to ensure that the Council has direct links to Directors of Children’s Services and Lead Members.
2.	We will introduce an Annual national Ministerial stocktake to review progress.	June 2009	The national stocktake will be an annual ministerial event. From 2009, it will monitor progress across the country, as well as lessons emerging from the pilots. A short report of the event will be laid before Parliament.
3.	We will disseminate new Government –funded corporate parenting training materials (NCB).	March/April 2008	A toolkit, ‘Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice’ has been developed by National Children’s Bureau (NCB) in partnership with local authorities. Materials were published alongside the implementation plan and were sent out to every Director of Childrens Services by the NCB on 26 March.
4.	We will identify and spread good practice through National Beacon Council Status.	March 2008	The Care Matters Beacon Councils for 2008 were announced on 04 March. South Gloucestershire and Leicester City Council achieved this status.
5.	We will monitor LAs’ arrangements for involving children through Children in Care Councils or equivalent.	June 2009	We are asking Ofsted to reflect this in their future inspection arrangements, reports from which will feed into the annual stocktake.
6.	We expect every LA to have a pledge for children in care.	From April 2008	LAs should each set out their pledge covering the services and support children in care should expect to receive. Pledges are already being developed across the country. We are asking Ofsted to reflect this in their future inspection arrangements.
7.	We will bring together all requirements for care planning in one set of regulations and guidance in 2009.	From 2009	DCSF will bring together all the requirements for care planning in one set of regulations and issue accompanying statutory guidance as part of the revised Children Act 1989 guidance. This will be issued in 2009.

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8.	We will strengthen the independence of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).	2008	<p>Through the Children and Young Persons Bill and revised regulations and guidance we are strengthening the IRO role to to enable IROs to have more effective independent oversight and scrutiny of the child's case to ensure that care planning is based on a thorough understanding of the child's needs, properly taking account of their views. In particular, through primary legislation we will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local authorities to appoint a named IRO for each looked after child ● IROs to monitor the local authority's performance of it functions in relation to the child's case ● IROs to ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the local authority.
9.	We will explore the implications of Care Matters for social worker training.	2008	<p>DCSF announced on 3 April 2008 in <i>Building Brighter Futures: Next Steps for the Children's Workforce</i> its commitment to working with the Department of Health to enhance and review social work training and education, including improving the supply and quality of placements, reducing variability in the content and quality of training programmes and ensuring the infrastructure that supports SW training remains fit for purpose. This review starts in late spring 2008. Working with CWDC to introduce a pilot programme for newly qualified social workers from September 2008. Alongside improvements to initial social work training, DCSF has commissioned CWDC to develop a framework for social work professional development and to pilot a newly qualified social work status.</p>

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10.	Reflecting Care Matters priorities in LAAs.	From April 2008	These priorities are reflected in the National Indicator Set for local government, and in some of the local targets which are currently being agreed for each local area.
11.	Ofsted will lead a programme of inspection of services to children in care.	Starting 2009	<p>The programme will monitor progress towards achieving the ambitions set out in Care Matters: Time for Change. We have asked Ofsted to ensure that this will also take account of Care Matters commitments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● arrangements for supporting family and friends carers ● action on children going missing from care ● school attendance and exclusion of children in care.
12.	<p>We will issue revised National Minimum Standards in 2009 which reflect Care Matters commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● putting the right emphasis on the need to reduce the risk of children going missing ● putting emphasis on supporting the education of children in care. 	2008/09	DCSF is currently working with partners to revise NMS for Children's Social Care settings, and will consult on these later in 2008.

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13.	<p>We will work with Government Offices to ensure continued focus on children in care – exploring issues around consistency, variation and sharing best practice. The focus will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the reasons behind differential rates of care (linked to current benchmarking arrangements and looked at in first Annual Stocktake) ● the decision-making mechanism for identifying whether a child meets the criteria for care on accommodation. 	2008/09	<p>DCSF will work with CIAG partners, Ofsted and the Government Offices to take this forward as part of the future work programme.</p> <p>DCSF and Ministry of Justice jointly funded some research on care proceedings brought under the Children Act 1989, which profiled the characteristics of the children and families involved. The research can be found at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research030308.htm</p>
Chapter 2: Family and Parenting Support			
1.	We will fund a programme of regional training events on Family Group Conferencing.	2008/09	DCSF is commissioning events to run in 2008/09. This will support the toolkit and reader on Family Group Conferencing that have already been produced.
2.	We will develop training based on “Safeguarding Children” research.	2009/2010	This research programme commenced in 2006. Four projects are due for completion by the end of 2008, with the fifth due at the end of 2009. We will then develop and publish training materials based on the findings from the studies.
3.	We are piloting a Family Drug and Alcohol Court in London	Jan 2008	Launched January 2008.
4.	We are funding the development of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) – an effective intervention for older children.	Jan 2008	10 pilots underway.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper	Timing	Action being taken
<p>5. We will provide £280 million for short breaks for disabled children.</p> <p>We will issue statutory guidance on the issues of support/ short break care to clarify the applicable regulations for different settings and arrangements. The guidance will set out the circumstances in which it would be expected that a child would be looked after.</p>	2008-11	<p>DFES and HM Treasury published <i>Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families</i> in May 2007, setting out a radical change programme for disabled children's services. This includes funding to local authorities for short break provision.</p> <p>The Children and Young Person's Bill includes provision on short break services to individuals caring for disabled children amongst the services that local authorities must provide and – following Royal assent – the Act will set these services on a statutory footing. The Government will review the current requirements surrounding short break carer status, competency and assessment over 2008-09.</p> <p>These changes will be reflected in the revised Children Act guidance.</p>

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<p>6. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● provide proper support and recognition through a new framework for family and friends care which will set out expectations of an effective service to enable children to live with the wider family; and ● introduce a requirement that family and friends should be considered in all cases as potential carers. 	2008/2009	<p>We are working to ensure that a more consistent and transparent approach is taken by every local authority to supporting kinship carers who are looking after children both within and outside the care system. We will do this through a combination of the legislative changes we are making in the Bill and through changes to regulations and the statutory guidance we will be issuing to local authorities once the Bill is passed.</p> <p>We are putting in place a 'gateway approach' to family and friends care to make sure that they are considered as an option at the first and every subsequent stage of decision-making, making the necessary changes in guidance, regulations and in the Bill to make this so. In part this is achieved through the newly issued Volume 1 of the Children Act Guidance and Regulations, which comes into force on 1 April, and the Bill provides for the local authority to 'give preference to' a placement with a relative, friend or other person connected with the child over and above the other placement options apart from reunification.</p> <p>In addition, the Bill includes provisions to amend the Children Act 1989 to allow local authorities to make longer term financial payments to family carers, if that is the most appropriate way to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.</p> <p>The revised Children Act 1989 guidance will include the development of effective arrangements to support family carers and the requirement for every local authority to publish their policies for doing so.</p>

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7.	We will legislate to entitle relative carers to apply for residence orders and special guardianship orders without leave of the courts after 1 year and raise the age at which residence orders end from 16 to 18.	2008/09	The Bill will reduce obstacles which family carers face in obtaining residence and special guardianship orders, by reducing the time periods after which a relative can apply for these orders without leave of the court. It also provides that a residence order should last until the child's 18th birthday, rather than their 16th as now, unless the court directs otherwise.
8.	We will ensure that all children who return home have a Child in Need plan.	2008/09	This will be covered by revised Children Act guidance and reflected in the Integrated Children's System.
Chapter 3: Care Placements – a better experience for everyone			
1.	We will put a statutory duty on LAs to secure a sufficient and diverse provision of quality placements within their local area.	2008/2009	The Bill introduces a new duty to take steps to secure sufficient accommodation within their area for children they look after. The Bill also requires local authorities to have regard to the benefit of a number of providers and diverse range of placements to reflect the diversity of their looked after population.
2.	We are launching Regional Commissioning Unit pilots.	October 2007	Six pilots are underway.
3.	We will issue guidance to help LAs manage local placements markets and publish research on optimal local supply of residential care.	2008/2009	Research published in Oct 2007. We will work with local authorities and issue guidance to help local authorities meet the new duty to secure sufficient accommodation within their area for the children they look after.
4.	We will update guidance on the application of the Children Act 1989 for placements in secure children's homes.	Jan 2008	Reflected in the revised Volume 1 of the Children Act Guidance and Regulations (came into effect 1 April 2008).
5.	We will work with LAs and YJB to explore future demand for places in secure accommodation.	2008	DCSF commissioned a review into welfare places in secure children's homes; the outcome of this research will be published in the summer. A joint DCSF/ YJB working group has been established to develop a joint commissioning strategy.

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6.	We will develop National Occupational Standards for service commissioners with Skills for Care and CWDC.	2007/2008	These have been developed by the Government in partnership with Skills for Care and CWDC. Work is currently underway with potential providers and we expect qualifications to be available from September 2008.
7.	We will support the development of standardised national contract for residential care.	Nov 2007	Published on the ECM website.
8.	We will make BAAF materials for LAs to audit performance in relation to stability of placements available to all LAs and GOs.	2008	To be launched after implementation plan.
9.	We will build on CWDC's Foster Care Training, Support and Development Standards and develop them further.	From April 2008	This is being taken forward by CWDC as part of their wider objective to develop a training and development framework for the children's social care workforce.
10.	We will fund a national roll out of the Fostering Changes Programme (training trainers).	2008	Funding available 2008-11. Contract is being let for work to start in autumn 2008.
11.	We will establish robust systems to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensure that foster carers' skills, training and qualifications are properly recorded ● provide for the exchange of information between agencies when foster carers change provider ● require agencies to publish details of their payment structures. 	2009	Revised National Minimum Standards come into force in 2009.
12.	We will extend the existing Independent Review Mechanism for prospective adopters to prospective foster carers	2008/2009	The Bill will give prospective foster carers access to an independent review mechanism.

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13.	We will fund pilot sites to test use of a weekly foster carer meeting and a weekly parent report on behaviour.	2009/11	Pilots to be developed during 2008.
14.	We will support the development of Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care pilots for young children.	April 2007	DCSF have awarded pump-priming funding to six local authorities and their partners and the first placements are due to be made in the summer. Eight local authorities have also been funded in 2008-09 to develop the programme for children aged 7–11.
15.	We will support a campaign to raise the profile of foster care nationally and to support local initiatives.	2008/2009	DCSF funding has been made available. Details will be confirmed in spring 2008.
16.	We will ensure that social worker training includes a component on effective concurrent planning.	2008/2009	DCSF announced on 3 April 2008 in <i>Building Brighter Futures: Next Steps for the Children's Workforce</i> its commitment to working with the Department of Health to enhance and review social work training and education, including improving the supply and quality of placements, reducing variability in the content and quality of training programmes and ensuring the infrastructure that supports SW training remains fit for purpose. This review starts in late spring 2008. Working with CWDC to introduce a pilot programme for newly qualified social workers from September 2008. Alongside improvements to initial social work training, DCSF has commissioned CWDC to develop a framework for social work professional development and to pilot a newly qualified social work status.
17.	We will consider with CWDC how best to support residential workers in fulfilling their role.	2008/2009	CWDC is taking this forward as part of their training and development framework for children's social care workers. They are scoping the project in 2007-08 and will be taking forward the design of the framework in 2008-09.

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18.	We will fund a pilot programme to evaluate the effectiveness of social pedagogy in residential care.	2008/11	Pilots to run between 08/09-10/11.
19.	We will give Ofsted an express power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to issue a notice setting out action needed and timescales for improvement in cases where a provider is failing to comply with relevant regulatory requirements. ● to prevent further admissions from taking place to children's homes and other residential settings. 	Bill	This is included in the Bill – the Bill makes amendments to the Care Standards Act, making clear that poor performance will not be tolerated and ensure that the Chief Inspector has a wider range of measures to deploy to ensure that swift and decisive action can be taken when standards are not met.
20.	We will strengthen the statutory framework so that the LA cannot place a child out of the LA area unless this is in the child's best interests.	Bill	The Bill includes a provision that amends the placement duties on local authorities. It makes it clear that children should not be placed out of the local authority area unless it's in the child's interest to do so.
21.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● clarify current requirements for placing agencies to notify DCS when a child is placed in a 52 week health or education setting ● introduce a requirement for LA to visit children in such placements ● issue guidance setting out the role and purpose of such visits. 	April 2009	DCSF has been taking this forward through the Bill and will provide more detail in revised regulations and guidance, to come into force in 2009.

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22.	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● make the requirement to visit explicit for all placements ● introduce a requirement that children will normally be seen alone where appropriate ● require LAs to ensure that young people have opportunities to contact social workers and seek advice outside visits ● extend the requirement to visit those children who were voluntarily accommodated before entering custody. 	2009	The Bill takes this commitment forward and further detail of these requirements will be included in subsequent regulations and relevant guidance by 2009.
Chapter 4: Delivering a first class education			
1.	We will introduce an expectation in care planning arrangements that, for children under five, the social worker will work with the carer and local authority to arrange high quality early years education as part of the child's care plan.	2009	This will form part of revised Children Act 1989 guidance.
2.	We will legislate to introduce a requirement that the LA ensures child's education is not disrupted as a result of care planning decisions and that the child must not move schools in Years 10 and 11.	By 2009	The Bill places a duty on local authorities not to disrupt a child's education or training as a result of accommodating the child. We will set out the particular importance of Key stage 4 in statutory guidance and through regulations.
3.	We will strengthen procedures when making out of authority placements so that the child gets the same level of educational support as any other child in care.	By 2009	We will use the revised care planning regulations guidance that will underpin the new placements provision in the Children and Young Persons Bill, to ensure that education is properly considered in making any decision to place a child out of authority.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
4.	We will legislate to put the role of the designated teacher on statutory footing.	By 2009	The Bill puts the role of the designated teacher on a statutory footing. The qualifications and experience needed by the person will be set out in regulations. Revised guidance on the Children Act 1989 will set out the roles of designated teachers, social workers, carers and children and young people in designing and delivering personal education plans.
5.	We will pilot a new role of virtual school heads to inform a national roll out.	2007-2009	Currently being piloted in 11 LAs to look at how they can use the role of virtual school head to drive up standards for children in care
6.	We will explore with Ofsted how best to assess provision to ensure children's homes providing education meet high standards.	2008-09	Discussions between DCSF and Ofsted are ongoing to inform the new inspection framework.
7.	From 2008 we will provide £500 a year for each child in care who is at risk of not reaching the expected standards and we will set out how LAs will be expected to use this money.	May 2008, depending on consultation results	Funding included in area based grant for local authorities. The Government will be issuing guidance in 2008 on effective use of the allowance.
8.	HSBC are providing £1 million to support individual tutoring for children in care.	2007 – 2009	Funded direct by HSBC.
9.	We will set out guidance on the role of designated teacher including how they should consider gifted and talented provision.	2008	Will consult on guidance by end 2008.
10.	We will issue strengthened guidance to carers, setting out how they can support children in care with special educational needs including their right to appeal to the Tribunal.	2009	Revised Children Act 1989 guidance will set out how LA should support the education of looked after children, including SEN and support for carers.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
11.	Ofsted to report on progress of children in care with special educational needs as part of their 09/10 work programme.	2010	Report to be produced during 2010.
12.	We have made available £217 million to offer 2 hours of free extended activities per week for pupils on free school meals. We will also make the offer available for children in care.	2011	We have made available £265 million to offer 2 hours of free extended activities per week for pupils from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We will also make the offer available for children in care.
13.	We are including information on needs of children in care in the Further Education Principals, Qualifying Programme.	2009	From September 2009, training on the needs of children in care will be included in the Further Education Principals Qualifying Programme and the professionalisation programme for Skills for Life practitioners.
14.	We are piloting an approach to helping Further Education to develop pastoral support for children in care and care leavers.	2008	Learning and Skills Network carried out a pastoral support pilot in Further Education colleges, including looking at how they could better meet the needs of children in care. A tool kit will be produced in April 2008.
15.	We will work with the Training and Development Agency (TDA) to ensure that support provided to local areas of Targeted Youth Support helps to involve social workers in new structures.	ongoing	Social workers should be included as part of targeted youth support arrangements.
16.	We will ask Ofsted to conduct a thematic review in 2008/09 of school's practice regarding the exclusion of children in care.	2009	This work will form part of OFSTED's 08/09 work programme.
17.	We will commission further research on why children in care have higher levels of absence and exclusion and how this can be reduced.	2009	Research to be commissioned in 2008.

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18.	We will ask National Strategies behaviour and attendance field forces to work with LAs and schools to tackle high rates of absence amongst children in care.	2009	National strategies target areas of high levels of absence. Attendance data is a priority for the new NPD-CLA data matching exercise which will enable the National Strategies to use this data to support children in care.
19.	We will publish the revised general statutory guidance on exclusion in September 2007 which will include an explanation that children in care must only be excluded as a last resort and that education provision should be arranged from the first day of exclusion.	2007	Statutory guidance on exclusion was published in September 2007. www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/exclusion/guidance2007/part2
20.	We will ask all schools and LAs to monitor absence and exclusion of children in care and put in place strategies for improving attendance and reducing exclusions.	2008-09	Schools and local authorities should ensure that they have strategies in place to improve the attendance of children in care and reduce the risk of exclusion.
21.	An additional module is being developed for the Fostering Changes programme to enable carers to support children's literacy.		Work programme will be confirmed during 2008.
22.	We will strengthen home-school agreements, ensuring full consideration for foster carers and residential care workers.	2008-09	We are considering the home-school agreements guidance in the wider context of the Children's Plan commitments around schools' relationships with parents, and also in relation to current work on the parents' charter commitment. This will take account of the needs of foster carers and residential care workers.
23.	We will provide training for school governors to help them understand needs of children in care.	2008	Guidance to school governors issued by the Department for Education and Skills in 2005 will be updated during 2008.

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24.	We will work with Government Offices to develop the Education Protects (EP) network.	2008	EP network has been migrated to GOs to ensure greater fit with the wider work of the GO.
Chapter 5: Promoting health and well-being			
1.	<p>We will reissue "Promoting Health of Looked After Children" in 2008 on a statutory footing (for LAs will be part of Children Act guidance rewrite) which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● strengthen joint working between local authorities and health bodies ● set out expectations surrounding health assessments of children in care and the subsequent health plans. ● ensure CAMHS provide targeted provision which prioritises children in care. ● address substance misuse. 	2008	DCSF and DH will issue a draft for consultation late in 2008.
2.	We will explore how best to improve coordination including the potential benefits of named health care professionals.	2008	Guidance on named health professionals will form part of revised guidance on promoting the health of looked after children.
3.	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● make clear in statutory guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that local areas should consider any relevant information on children in care when making assessments. 	2007	Requirement reflected in JSNA.

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4.	We will consider how best to ensure that the mental health of children in care is reflected in future LA performance management and will explore the case for developing new indicators on psychological and emotional health and well-being of children and specifically the difficulties facing children in care.	2008	<p>The new National Indicator Set for Local Government includes an indicator on the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children. The NIS forms the basis of all local area agreements.</p> <p>Carers will be asked to complete the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) in relation to each looked after child.</p> <p>The updated guidance was issued in 2008.</p>
5.	We will set out in guidance how schools can support the sex and relationships education (SRE) needs of children in care.	2008	DCSF will establish a small stakeholder group to develop this project.
6.	We will provide foster carers with tailored guidance on SRE to children in care.	2008-09	DCSF will establish a small stakeholder group to develop this project.
7.	We will ensure that social workers have the skills to assess whether SRE needs to be provided.	2007	The Children's Plan set out our commitment to improve support and training for all social workers working with children and families. In taking these commitments forward, we will ensure that training and support for social workers properly equips them with the knowledge and skills on issues around SRE.
8.	We will ensure that young women in care who are pregnant have a lead professional who coordinates a comprehensive package of support.	2008	We are working with the teenage pregnancy unit to assess how best to ensure pregnant young women receive the appropriate support. This will be covered in the revised Children Act 1989 guidance.

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9.	The guidance which accompanies the Education and Inspections Act 2006 duty to ensure young people have access to sufficient positive leisure activities will make clear that the duty must be fulfilled with rigour in relation to children in care. LAs must consult and ensure that views are taken into account re the provision that young people in care value.	Completed	The duty to secure access to leisure activities came into force in April 2007. Statutory Guidance: Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (New legislation on positive activities) www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/thingstodo .
10.	We will provide schools with funding to enable vulnerable children including children in care to access 2 hours per week of extended schools group activity and 2 weeks of holiday provision.	2010/11	£217m will be made available in 2010/11. Before then, funding is phased £8.5m / £40m. A pathfinder will be run in 2008/09 and 2009/10 to test delivery. Children in care will be included.
11.	We will introduce new regulations to ensure that children in care are not charged for music provision and explore how we can better engage children in care in music-making.	2007	Regulations on charges for musical instrument teaching came into force on 1 September 2007. These included regulations ensuring that instrument (and vocal) lessons provided to children in care within the school day could not be charged for.
12.	We will work with Youth Sport Trust and Sport England to explore and support new approaches to providing community sport opportunities.	Ongoing	DCSF and DCMS are working closely with the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England to increase the amount and quality of sporting opportunities for all young people. By 2011, all 5-16 year olds who want it, will take part in at least 2 hours high quality PE and sport per week in school, and have the opportunity for a further 3 hours of sport beyond the school day, delivered by a range of school, community and club providers. Young people aged 16-19 will have the opportunity for up to 3 hours of sport each week. This will be delivered through the national PE and Sport Strategy for Young People.

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13.	We will ensure that disadvantaged young people, including children in care, significantly benefit from increased opportunities to engage in positive activities.	2008	LAs are required to ensure that all young people, including young people in care, have access to sufficient positive leisure time activities, under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This might include free access to leisure services for those in care and their carers and involvement in youth work activity. This will become part of the child's care plan and will be included in revised Children Act guidance.
14.	We will set out in guidance that LAs must seek to improve outcomes for young people in care through involvement in youth work activity including through the Youth Opportunity Fund.	2008	To be included in revised Children Act 1989 guidance.
15.	We will establish a children in care sector reference group to guide DCSF sponsored Olympic activity.	Ongoing	DCSF are working closely with the London Organising Committee of the Games (LOCOG) to support the development of their education programme, scheduled for launch in September 2008 to schools, colleges and other education providers. This LOCOG programme will provide an overarching framework for DCSF activity linked to the Games. Young people are at the heart of this programme and to ensure that vulnerable young people and those at the margins of mainstream learning are given the opportunity to get involved, a process of on-going consultation about the design of the programme has been put in place by LOCOG with local authorities and Directors of Children's Services.
16.	We will work with 2012 Nations and Regions Group so that 2012 regional activities take account of children in care.	Done	DCSF are working with the Government Olympic Executive and LOCOG to establish an on-going process of communication and consultation with the regions prior to the launch of the national 2012 education programme in September 2008. This will also help inform regional 2012 plans.

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17.	We will work with a number of companies to further promote their involvement in providing opportunities for children in care.	2008	Local authorities should build local links with private sector organisations to improve the opportunities available for children in care <i>Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care</i> emphasises the importance of partnership working between statutory, private and third sector organisation to offer new and different opportunities to children in care including volunteering, work experience and employment opportunities.
18.	We will monitor volunteering rates of children in care compared to peers. Should volunteering of children in care be below of the national average we will work to boost participation.	2008-09	DCSF is working with the Office of the Third Sector to develop this programme of work.
19.	We will fund the production of packs for children in care and carers on things to do and places to go in the local area.	Completed	NCB has produced a template for the packs which will be launched following implementation plan.
20.	We will ensure that foster carer training includes an understanding of the importance of play and leisure activities.	2008	Already taken forward as part of the Healthy Care Programme and will be taken forward as part of CWDC's training and development framework.
21.	We will ask LAs to ensure that independent visitors are provided with activity packs to use with children in care.	2009	This will be set out in revised Children Act 1989 guidance.
22.	We will explore how the portfolio of the senior lead for children and young people in PCTs can be developed to address the needs of vulnerable children including children in care.	2008	The role of PCTs in supporting the health of children in care will be set out in revised guidance on promoting the health of looked after children which will be statutory for health bodies and local authorities.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
23.	We will set out in statutory guidance that the DCS should utilise JSNA and CYP Plan to ensure that the health and well-being of children in care are addressed.	Completed	Guidance issued in 2007 and is available at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081097
24.	We will make it clear in statutory guidance that the DCS should ensure similar or better levels of engagement in positive activities as other children in the local area and we will encourage the DCS to gather information to measure progress on participation of children in care.	2009	We will set this out in revised statutory guidance in 2009.
25.	We will provide LAs with important new opportunities to improve coordination and challenge health bodies' contribution to the wellbeing of children in care.	2007	Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act places a duty on all members of the local strategic partnership to agree and have regard to targets agreed as part of the local area agreement.
Chapter 6: Transition to Adulthood			
1.	We will pilot Right2BCared4 – 'involvement of young people in the decision-making process that influences when they leave care.	Ongoing	Pilots have been established in 11 local authority areas.
2.	We will pilot arrangements – the Staying Put: 18+ Family Placement pilots – from 2008/09 for young people who have established familial relationships with their foster carers to enable them to stay with them to age 21.	2008	The tender inviting bids for the Staying Put:18+ Family Placement pilots was issued in February 2008. We will inform pilots sites in Summer 2008.
3.	We will make regulatory change to enable payments to former foster carers to be disregarded for benefit purposes.	April 2008	To be introduced through changes in benefits regulations from April 2008.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
4.	We will legislate to ensure that young people aren't moved from regulated to unregulated placements unless the proposal has been properly scrutinised.	Bill	<p>The Bill contains provision to ensure that children in foster care or children's homes only move to independent living as a result of a review of their care plan.</p> <p>Through the Right2BCared4 pilots, we are testing how best to ensure that young people's views are heard and the care plan is properly reviewed when significant placement decisions are made; in particular where it is proposed that 16/17 year olds move from a stable care placement to a less supportive placement such as an "independent" flat or hostel.</p> <p>The pilots will inform regulations and guidance supporting the Bill's implementation.</p>
5.	During the course of the Staying Put: 18+ Family Placement pilots, we will look to see if there is demand by young people in children's homes to stay in their homes beyond 18.	2008	The tender inviting bids for the Staying Put:18+ Family Placement pilots was issued in February 2008. We plan to establish pilots in June 2008.
6.	We will provide training for foster carers so that they can help young people learn the practicalities of living alone.	2008	We will be looking at this as part of CWDC's work to develop foster care training and development standards.
7.	We will disseminate evidence about the outcomes of models of volunteering-based work for young people in care.	Ongoing	DCSF is working with Office of the Third Sector on this.
8.	We will extend the provision of a PA to and maintain pathway plan for (a) every young person who still has to achieve educational qualifications or training and (b) any young person up to 25 who asks for assistance with Further Education or training.	2008/09	The Bill extends the duty to appoint a personal adviser and keep the pathway plan under regular review to support young people who wish to continue on, or resume an education or training pathway, up to the age of 25. This will also be reflected in updated regulations and guidance from 2009.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
9.	We will explore the possibility of flexible starting dates for young people who want to pursue further education courses.	2008	Many colleges already provide flexible start dates. LSC are committed to securing greater flexibility of provision – in particular so that it is easier for learners to start courses in January, rather than only in September. Guidance to be published in April 2008.
10.	We will introduce progression pathways within the Foundation Learning Tier.	2007	The Prospectus for Progression Pathways was published on LSC website in December 2007. It was circulated to post-16 providers participating in the support and development programme, the SfBN and awarding bodies.
11.	We will target young people in care and their carers in recruitment programmes for literacy, language and numeracy courses and the development of a family literacy and language learning package for those in care and their carers.	March 2008	18 pilots are running and trialling a number of models. These will reach 162 carers and 90 children/young people and will be delivered by the end of March 08.
12.	We will improve the sharing of data on children in care via the Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) project, so that we can track participation, progression and attainment of children in care as they move from school to college.	2008	MIAP study concluded. All pupils over the age of 14 in the National Pupil Database will all have a unique learning record by this Summer. The record will bring together participation and achievement information already collected and will be trialled this Spring and if the piloting is successful, it will be made accessible to learners later this year. Colleges and Work based learning providers and those schools delivering 14-19 diploma will all be registering bodies later this year for the “unique learning number” (ULN). Trialling on inclusion of ULN within the Connexions national system began in March 2008.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
13.	We will develop a self-assessment tool kit for Further Education to evaluate the effectiveness of the support they offer.	2008-09	We will work with key stakeholders to explore this further.
14.	We will include training on the needs of children in care as part of the new Principals' Qualifying Programme.	2009	From September 2009, training on the needs of children in care will be included in the Further Education Principals' Qualifying Programme and the professionalisation programme for Skills for Life professionals.
15.	We will include a module on children in care within the professionalisation programme for Skills for Life professionals.	2009	See above.
16.	We will develop a pilot on pastoral support to help Further Education providers better meet the needs of children in care.	Done	Learning and Skills Network carried out a pastoral support pilot in Further Education colleges, including looking at how they could better meet the needs of children in care. A tool kit will be produced in April 2008.
17.	We are commissioning work to identify models of best practice in delivering housing support services to vulnerable young people.	2008	The Government has funded a national charity to identify the models and this project will begin in April 2008. A good practice guide will be available the following year.
18.	We are commissioning a good practice guidance on housing and children's services co-operation regarding homelessness including on meeting specific needs of children in care.	2008	Government will publish updated good practice guidance in 2008.
19.	We will invest £100 per year in the Child Trust Fund of every child who spends a year in care from 2008.	From April 2008	Guidance was issued for consultation Feb 2008.
20.	UCAS will introduce tick boxes from September 2008 to record a young person's care status.	Completed	UCAS application form amended to capture the information.

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
21.	We are committed to introducing a national bursary requiring LAs to provide a minimum of £2,000 to all young people in care who go to higher education.	Bill	The Bill provides for extra financial support for all care leavers who enter higher education. The Children and Young Persons' Bill will introduce a requirement to pay all care leavers in HE a bursary of a minimum of £2000.
Chapter 7: The role of the practitioner			
1.	We will legislate to establish a variety of two-year pilots across a diverse range of local authorities to test the social work practices (SWP) model.	Ongoing	Bill will allow LAs to pilot. Subject to Parliamentary approval, local authorities will be selected to take part in the pilots over the summer. Pilot local authorities will then invite tenders from prospective SWPs. We anticipate that following a rigorous commissioning process, the pilots will 'go live' by summer 2009.
2.	We will require LAs to appoint a named IRO for each child.	Bill	The Bill will require local authorities to appoint a named IRO for each looked after child, to ensure a consistent relationship with one professional who keeps their care plan under review
3.	We will require IROs to spend time individually with each child prior to review.	Bill	To support the Bill we will set out in revised regulations and guidance in 2009 the expectation that IROs will spend time individually with each child prior to any review so that the IRO personally establishes the child's wishes and feelings about the issues to be covered at the care planning meeting.
4.	We will strengthen existing guidance on the role of IROs by defining a 'significant event' when review must take place.	2009	To support the Bill, we will set out in revised care planning and reviewing regulations and guidance in 2009, what we mean by a significant event and when we would typically expect for additional reviews to take place. This will include proposals to move a child from a regulated to unregulated placement or where a placement will disrupt the child's education or training (particularly at Key Stage 4).

Commitments in the Care Matters White Paper		Timing	Action being taken
5.	We will update guidance so that referral to CAFCASS is not seen as last resort.	2009	We will update guidance in 2009 so that a referral by the IRO to CAFCASS is no longer seen as a last resort, but as a real option to ensure proper scrutiny of local authority decisions in cases where IROs believe it is appropriate to escalate their well founded professional concerns.
6.	We will amend guidance to specify optimum caseloads for IROs.	2009	We will amend guidance in 2009 to specify optimum caseloads for IROs – at present there is considerable variability between local authorities in the size of IRO caseloads, impeding the effectiveness of the IRO service.
7.	We will legislate to extend the opportunity to have an independent visitor to all children who would benefit.	2009	This is being taken forward as part of the Children and Young Person's Bill.
8.	We will work proactively with LAs to increase the pool of volunteers who wish to become Independent Visitors.	2008	DSCF will promote awareness of the role of the Independent Visitor in partnership with the voluntary sector. This work programme is being developed.