TRANSFORMING SOCIAL CARE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children in care projects

Corporate Parenting Board update

June 2021

Hampshire County Council

rojects overview

(January 2020 – present): Gateway projects led by TSC → **Phase 2: Embedding practice, led by BAU**

To achieve

Meeting and plans

- Further embedding of Hampshire Approach

- Earlier and improved engagement of wider support network and potential carers

and Friends Care

- More children placed with family and friends carers outside of the care system

- Improved support for family and friends carers

dding reunification across rvice

- Services to support reunification

- Removing barriers to reunification (language, policy, process)

- Developing a reunification culture

Family Connections

Building, maintaining and returning to family network

- ➤ *Clarifying and promoting key messages*
- ➤ *Creating resources for practitioners, Foster Care and families*
- ➤ *Training and tools*
- ➤ *Developing the Family Connections Service*

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Why review Family Meetings and Plans?

Developing positive relationships with families is the heart of what we do

Everyone has strengths, and we get the best from each other when we recognise and build on those strengths

In listening, respecting and working together with the child, their family and those that have a responsibility to them

That working to support the whole family will achieve the best outcomes for the child in the long term

That working in this way enables us to identify, respond to and manage risk safely

We want

1. To move towards 'one plan' that travels with the family/child

2. Continue to embed Hampshire Approach

3. Further clarity about our approach to family meetings

4. To build on learning from Covid and flexible ways of working

5. Capture, share and articulate best practice

6. Improve the quality of plans and planning

We've done

Created a family meeting and planning model, supported by new templates, tools, guidance and training.

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The journey

## anuary - March: Form and model design

High level outline

Day 1, 27 January 10am – 4.30pm	Day 2, 28 January 10am – 4.30pm	Gather feedbacks from teams / colleagues	Day 3, 7 February 9.30am – 4pm
What's it about? Setting the scene Confirming the scope of what we're designing Thinking about the look, feel and facilitation of our meetings with families Reviewing all the feedback on our current forms and examples we've gathered Thinking about what the plan needs to capture from different perspectives	**What's it about?** • Designing the form • Practicing using it • Assessing whether it works, what potential issues may be and resolving • Presenting to Senior Managers (Steve Crocker, Stuart Ashley, Sue Kocaman)		**What's it about?** • Discussing feedback from teams • Making changes and agreeing a final version • Presenting to Stuart Ashley • Discussing how the form should be tested and embedded • Agreeing what support practitioners and managers will need
hat do we need to finish with Having discussed the feedback and examples of types of plans Agreed what we are going to design the next day	**What do we need to finish with** • A draft template • A presentation to Senior Managers • Clarity about what attendees are going back to their teams to ask		**What do we need to finish with** • A 'testable' version of the form • A plan for testing and implementation • Agreed requirements for support required

Moving towards a Family Plan

- 3 days
- 30 attendees
- 11 parts of the Service represented
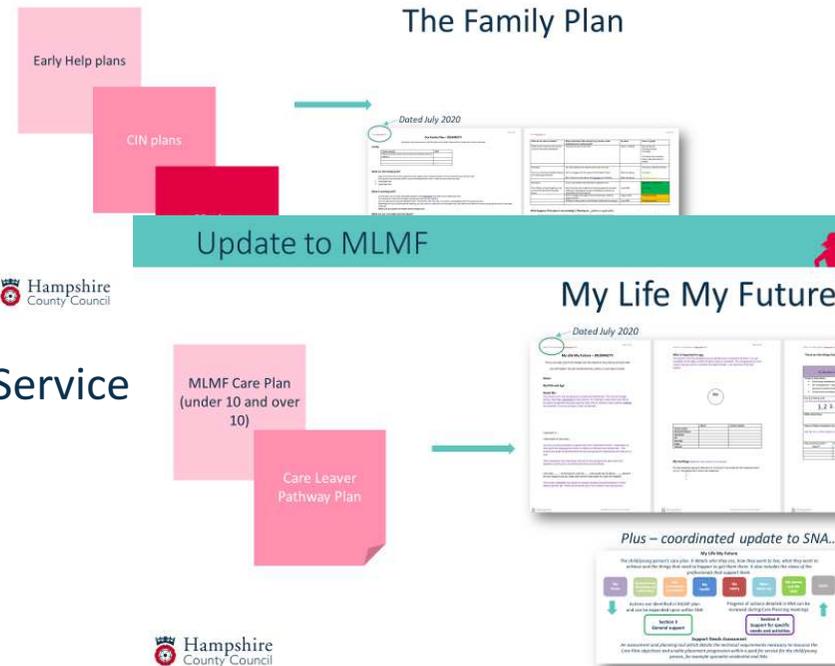
April – June: Testing and refinement

- Feedback from across the service, updates made to final version
- Coordinating with Support Needs Assessment development to ensure alignment
- Development and sign off of Family Meeting Model recommendations

July: Form launch

September: follow-up workshops with over 100 attendees

Our approach to the project

The opportunity

What we're going to do

Status

ore children could
placed with Family
nd Friends carers
utside of the care
system

1. Routes into care

- ✓ Increase conversion to Special Guardianship
- ✓ Increase private & planned placements
- ✓ Consider further alternatives to regulation 24

2. Improve package of support

- ✓ Focus on preparation
- ✓ Improvements to assessments & plans
- ✓ Access to ongoing support & guidance

3. Improve ways of working

- ✓ Update team structure.

Recommendations
were approved on 31
March 2021

Currently in transition
phase with Family
Connections Service
due to launch from July
2021

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Our recommendations

mmunications

Clear comms and tools for practitioners – giving same message

mproved comms (leaflets, webpages) for families

Updated Support Plan and Pre-Screening Tool (on toolkit now)

tes into care

Continue to promote earlier and continued engagement of wider family network

Think about sec 20, private arrangements and earlier planning or SGOs

Creative use of stranger Foster Carer to give time to upskill amily carer who may not have been considered otherwise

Support package

✓ Grow a package of support as we better understand need an demand

✓ Access to Family Time Service

✓ Contact line, signposting to universal or support services

✓ Access to tailored Fostering workshops relevant for SGs

✓ Developing Peer Support

✓ Taking on Adoption Support Fund applications

✓ Potential for specialist therapeutic programmes

✓ Reviewing SGO payments

A new Family Connections Service will launch from July. It will include our existing assessment function, and develop a support package for family and friends carers.

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Embedding reunification across the service

| Can this child go home? | Flip our thinking | What needs to happen for the child to move safely home? |

…..whilst working with the family and their networks all the time……

?
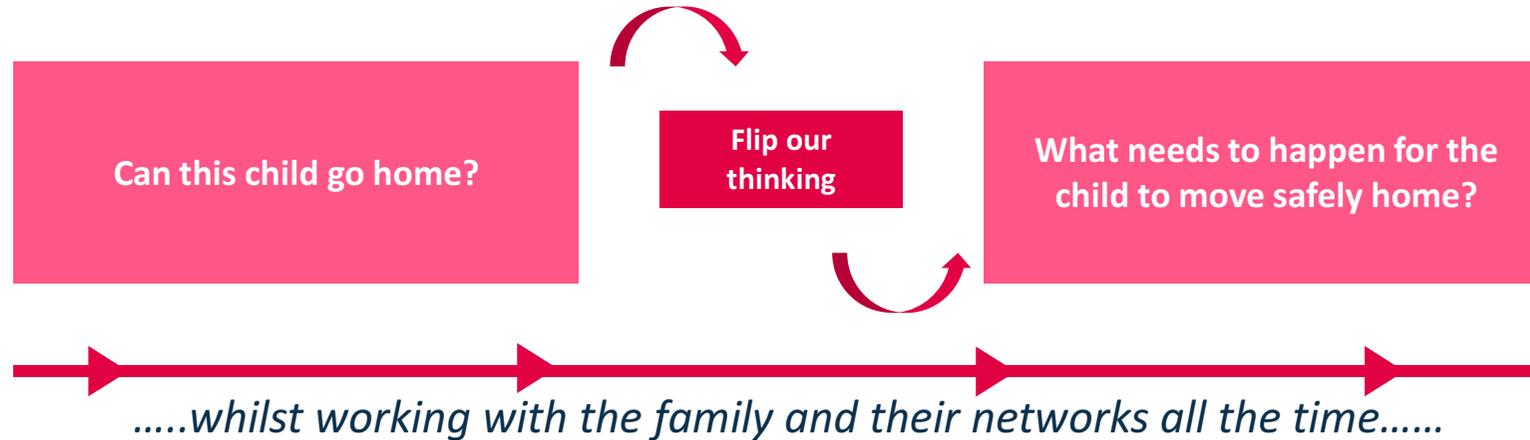
r role is to help build, maintain, and support children to return to their family and wider networks.

believe
Children have the best outcomes when living with their family networks
When we consider care, it should be flexible and draw on family networks whenever possible
A child should be in care *for as long as needed.* Families change and we'll always work with them to establish a lifelong support network for the child, and return them home if/when appropriate.

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Reunification: initial findings

- We've held several workshops with staff discussing reunification

- When we think about 'reunification' we often default to thinking about children in long-term care re-establishing links with their families

- And yet…the practice we identified as important, was about what we do with families before the child even comes into care.

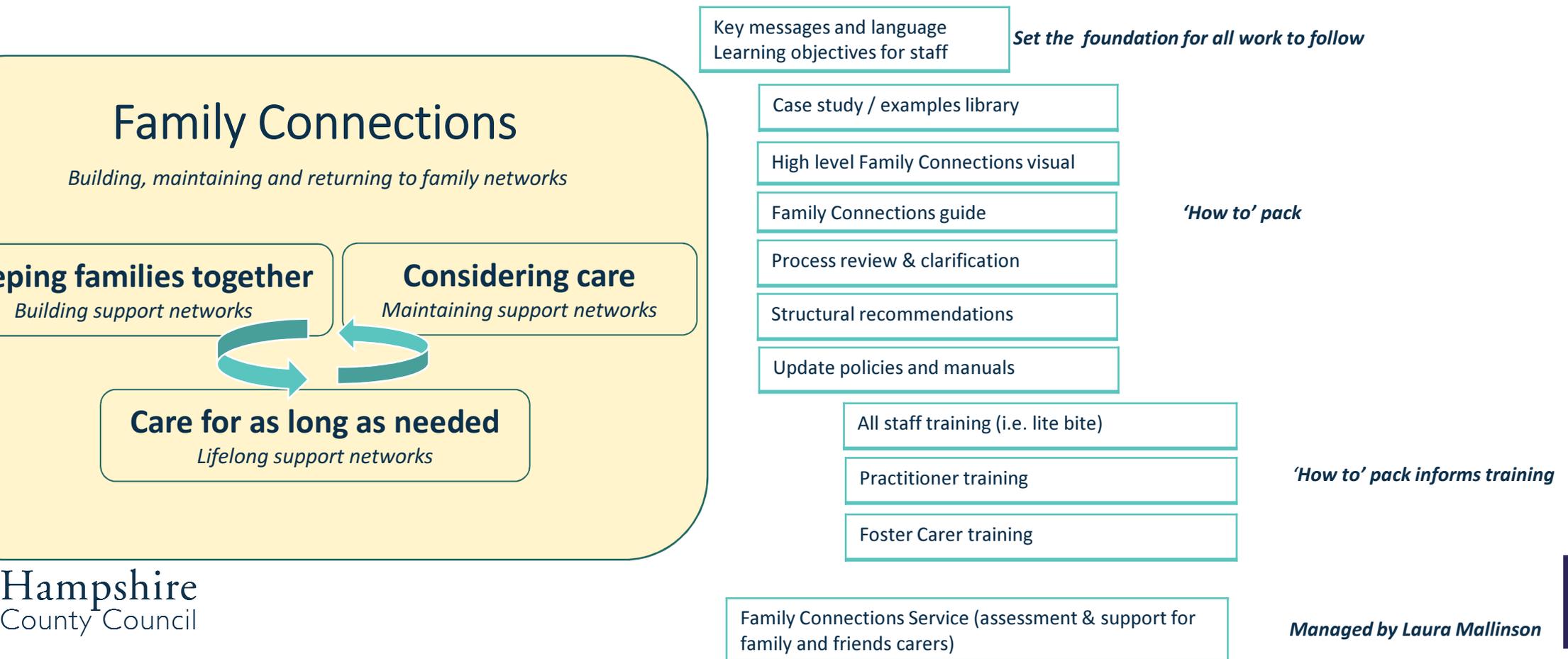The same themes arose as in our previous gateway projects…

Earlier and more consistent engagement of the wider family network

Family Connections

We identified a series of resources which will clarify and embed better practice in how we engage the wider family network

The Service Development Team will lead the next phase of the project, with support from Transformation Social Care programme

Family Connections

Building, maintaining and returning to family networks

eping families together
Building support networks

Considering care
Maintaining support networks

Care for as long as needed
Lifelong support networks

Key messages and language
Learning objectives for staff

Set the foundation for all work to follow

Case study / examples library

High level Family Connections visual

Family Connections guide

'How to' pack

Process review & clarification

Structural recommendations

Update policies and manuals

All staff training (i.e. lite bite)

Practitioner training

'How to' pack informs training

Foster Carer training

Family Connections Service (assessment & support for family and friends carers)

Managed by Laura Mallinson

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The role of Corporate Parenting Board

Support and raise awareness

Prioritise reunification/family network housing

Consider how mental health support can best be provided to these families

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