Reducing the CLA figures and increasing in house provision

Task

- Children's Services: the Lead Member has raised concerns about an increase in spend on independent foster care placements - 20% in the last 6 months. The manager of your fostering and adoption service has sent you a short briefing indicating that: the number of children coming into care has risen slightly but she is more concerned about: a significant drop in the number of available internal (local authority) foster placements she thinks due to a number of experienced carers retiring; and a long-standing now chronic problem finding local placements within the voluntary and private sector. The policy has always been to seek an in house fostering placement first, then go out to the voluntary/private sector for spot purchased fostering placements. Many children have had to be placed in voluntary/private sector foster homes at some distance from the local authority boundary.

Questions to consider

- What is your plan as leaders to change your relationship with the market to deliver change?
- What will you be doing differently?
- How will you know if you have been successful?

Objectives

- Increase in LA foster carers
- Decrease in spend on
- Decrease in LAC

What is your plan as leaders to change your relationship with the market to deliver change?

Issues and themes to consider

- Unpick the increase in LAC numbers

Explore internal capacity vs. external capacity

Explore early prevention services

Analysis of issues across a number of areas - Staffing levels, Training

We need to understand our workforce planning – e.g. if foster carers are retiring

- Are we looking at the 3 market shaping behaviours here?
- Coordinated approach with all LAs in the region
- feedback from young people. they make their own advert as to what they want
- To look at recruitment of carers

How would we implement this

Following the market shaping behaviours

- Setting the scene – no's of LAC
- Identify the problem
- Identify who needs to be included to tackle the issues
- Agree a coordinated approach
- Consult with CYP and foster carers, partner agencies, agencies
- Agree aspects such as cost, incentives
- Explore existing resources – what's available

What will you be doing differently?

- Slowing things down - being more considered in our approach as opposed to reactive – double loop solution
- Understanding our demand
- Focusing on design through co-production
- Having an overarching framework – consistent approach across the region. This would eliminate competition in accessing placements and to bid on who has one

How will you know if you have been successful?

- Reduction in our LAC figures
- Increased internal fostering options
- Seeking a range of different sources of feedback from our partners
- Implement reviewing and monitoring
- Continuous feedback systems in place
- More carers due to awesome proactive recruitment
- Social workers, carers, providers giving feedback
- Reduction in spend

Questions…..