



Department  
for Education

## Children with Complex Trauma Task and Finish Group

### Notes of meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Held 10:00 – 11:00, virtually via MS Teams

#### Chair

Ailsa Swarbrick, Deputy Director, Children Young People and Perinatal, NHS England

Sarah Jennings: Deputy Director, Looked After Children Division, Department for Education

#### Attendees

- Sarah Jennings – Department for Education
- Fran Oram – Department for Education
- Alisa Swarbrick – National Health Service England
- Kathy Smethurst – Department for Health and Social Care
- Alan Webster – Ministry of Justice
- Lynne Abrams – Youth Custody Service
- Department for Education Officials
- Department of Health and Social Care Officials
- Ministry of Justice Officials
- NHS England Officials
- Childrens Commissioner’s Office Officials
- The Association of Directors of Children’s Services Officials
- Youth Custody Service Officials

#### Introductions

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

## **Reflections on Update Paper**

The Chair gave a brief overview of the progress on activities relating to the update paper before giving members the opportunity to raise any points, which stimulated some discussion among Task and Finish Group members.

## **Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) 'Voice of the Child'**

Officials from the OCC shared the key themes and recommendations from the ongoing 'Voice of the Child' research.

## **Future Work**

A Department for Education (DfE) official gave an overview of the focus for future work from the work programme. Key themes included workforce transformation and planning, education provision and piloting new models of care.

## **Future Provision**

Following the announcement of the Spring Budget money of an additional £45m to assist Local Authorities with building an additional 200 Open Children's Homes placements and £120m to fund the maintenance of the existing Secure Children's Home estate, the TFG discussed what future community-based provision for the purpose of treatment and care might look like for this cohort. This included a discussion about legislative and regulatory considerations.

## **AOB**

The Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their attendance and Sarah Jennings invited attendees to get in touch in-between the scheduled meetings.