

# CELCIS REACH: Ruth Nairn | Planning starts at a very early stage in East Renfrewshire

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Social workers in East Renfrewshire Council have been working hard to tackle drift and delay in looked-after children in the pre-birth to three-year-old age group. In this video, Ruth Nairn explains how planning starts at a very early stage.

We have been working really hard to address drift in this area. One of the tests we be looking at is about assessment time scales. What we have been doing, is we have an allocations meeting every Friday and during the allocations meeting, when we're allocating cases alongside that, we're also allocating what we call C Map Assessment. That's the assessment and framework that we use across the board with all children that we work with. We are doing it as a test of change with 0-3yr old children. What that then means is that from that point where it's allocated, social workers then have 40 days to complete that assessment. So, that assessment sits live on the social workers' Care First, so they know it's there they know within 40 days it needs to be completed. There is a marker also put in their diary, so they know what they're working towards and they know when that assessment is due. What that then means at the end of that assessment is we have a multi- agency planning meeting. So, it means that planning for children starts at a very early stage. We've got all agencies around the table and we're putting a clear plan in place, looking at what outcomes we're wanting to achieve for these children and everybody that's working on that child's plan also has a responsibility in terms of their responsibility to that child and supporting that child to reach those outcomes.

We also have a really stringent reviewing process in place to ensure that there is momentum with these cases, that we're not continuing to see drift, that we're making sure that the outcomes that we've set out and the action points we've set out are continuing and that we're achieving what we have set out to achieve. And if we're not then we're making those necessary changes along the way. There's also been a real focus on in East Renfrewshire is we've got a really got an intensive support team. So alongside the assessment we're able to use that intensive support service to make effective changes with and pre-birth to 3 year olds. Alongside that is also an assessment of parental capacity and their capacity to

change. Week in and week out, month in and month out, we don't want to be doing the same things with children, we want to see that there is capacity to change with parents in order to meet their children's needs. And if they're not they we need to be making different decisions. We need to making permanence decisions for children to make sure that they have a secure home and the love that they need going forward.

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