



Our Aim - By January 2018, 80% of all looked after and accommodated children will be in a permanent placement within 12 months of becoming Looked After

Method

Two years on and the importance of permanence is well established in Orkney. PACE meetings are now quarterly workshops. For two infants a permanence placement has been achieved within 12 months of becoming looked after.

PACE 2017-18- Key learning points and work undertaken

Edinburgh Contact Guidance shared with Panel members.

The Data Sharing Agreement between CELCIS and Orkney Islands Council has been accepted, signed and is in place.

Utilisation of VC/Teleconference facilities to include relevant stakeholders, e.g. Children's Reporter, in meetings when unable to attend in person.

Working to improve parenting assessments in terms of clear timescales, sharper focus and quality.

Working with the Children's Panel members to anticipate questions about parenting capacity assessment within reports.

A focus on achieving care permanence as a priority, not just legal permanence. This means more to the child's day to day lived experience and wellbeing.

Reflecting on cases where delays in securing legal permanence had impacted on children's care.

Where agencies are continuing to assess significant risk (i.e. as part of Child Protection Case Conferences) children do not remain on the register for longer than 6-9 months before Compulsory measures are sought.

Looked at timescales for permanence and lessons learned from past cases.

Looked at development work in terms of the assessment of thresholds and in particular evidence of serious detriment (engaging with social work practitioners, reviewing referrals and having an awareness of cases 'on the edge of care' or at risk of becoming LAC).

Results

Investment in an Intensive Fostering Service to ensure children have greater stability of care from a consistently available carer, better able to support their attachment needs.

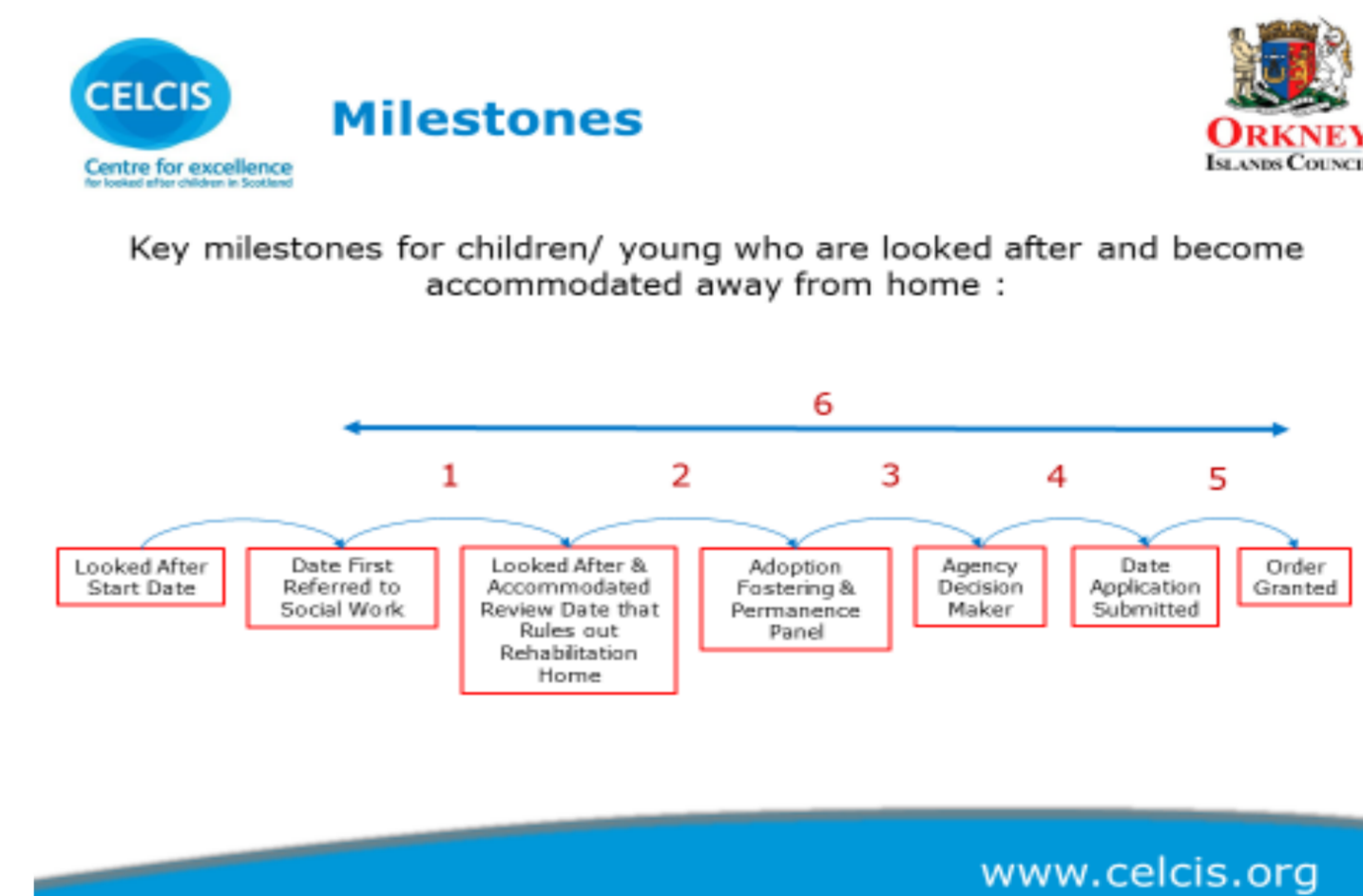
Funding obtained for a media drive to recruit foster carers. Six new posters professionally produced and publicity campaign started.

Fostering and Adoption Service received a very good Care Inspectorate report, which also received positive publicity nationally.

Looked after Young People reported positive experiences of care in the Care Inspectorate report.

Quality assurance of permanence practice is being undertaken by the 'Champions' group, informing improvements to practice and procedures.

LAC Tracker altered to capture the relevant information needed to track a child's journey.



Next steps

- To continue to monitor and track timescales for children
- To record the rigorous early assessment undertaken, often before a child is accommodated.
- To continue quarterly workshops to maintain a focus on positive outcomes for looked after children.

