

Changing the Narrative: Responding to the developmental needs of looked after children and those who care for them

Let's have a conversation... based on Stage 1

It is our hope that the 'Changing the narrative.....' events over the next 6 months will not only generate lots of discussion amongst participants but will also reach out to the wider network of policy makers, practitioners and academics. That's where you come in.

We are asking that in-between Stages 1 and 2 you try to generate as much discussion as you can with your work colleagues /organisational partners / young people / parents & carers etc. about how much and how well we use a developmental frame in our understanding of and work around improving outcomes for looked after children. This could happen through 1-1 conversations, at team meetings, grabbing a bit of time from an established agenda, focus groups etc.

Unless you want to, there is no expectation that you need to write-up your conversations, but we will use the information you gather to generate discussion at the Stage 2 event.

Below are some suggested questions to prompt conversation. You don't have to stick to the wording here and you can pick and choose to cover all four themes or just one or two.

1. **Our Understanding**

How well do we understand the needs of looked after children in their developmental journey from conception through to early adulthood? How well do we understand what the key adults need to be able to do to promote their development and to help them recover from developmental trauma?

2. **Shared Language**

Do we and our partners have a shared language to describe, assess and intervene around the developmental needs of looked after children? Do children / young people and families / carers find our language clear and straightforward?

3. **How we organise our services**

How well are our services organised to effectively and efficiently meet the developmental needs of looked after children and their families and carers? Does using a developmental frame have implications about how we support professionals?

4. **Policy**

How well does the policy landscape adequately reflect children's developmental needs and the impact of trauma on children's life trajectories?

