



Department
for Education

Delivering the children's social care reset

**An implementation
plan for local
partners**

2026-2029

Ministerial webinar for multi-agency partners

June 2026

Welcome & Housekeeping

Thank you to colleagues across the local authority, health, and police sectors for joining this CSC Reform Ministerial Webinar.

We will be setting out the changes for multi-agency partners in the CSC Implementation Plan, highlighting the support available to implement these changes, and sharing further engagement opportunities throughout the rest of the year.

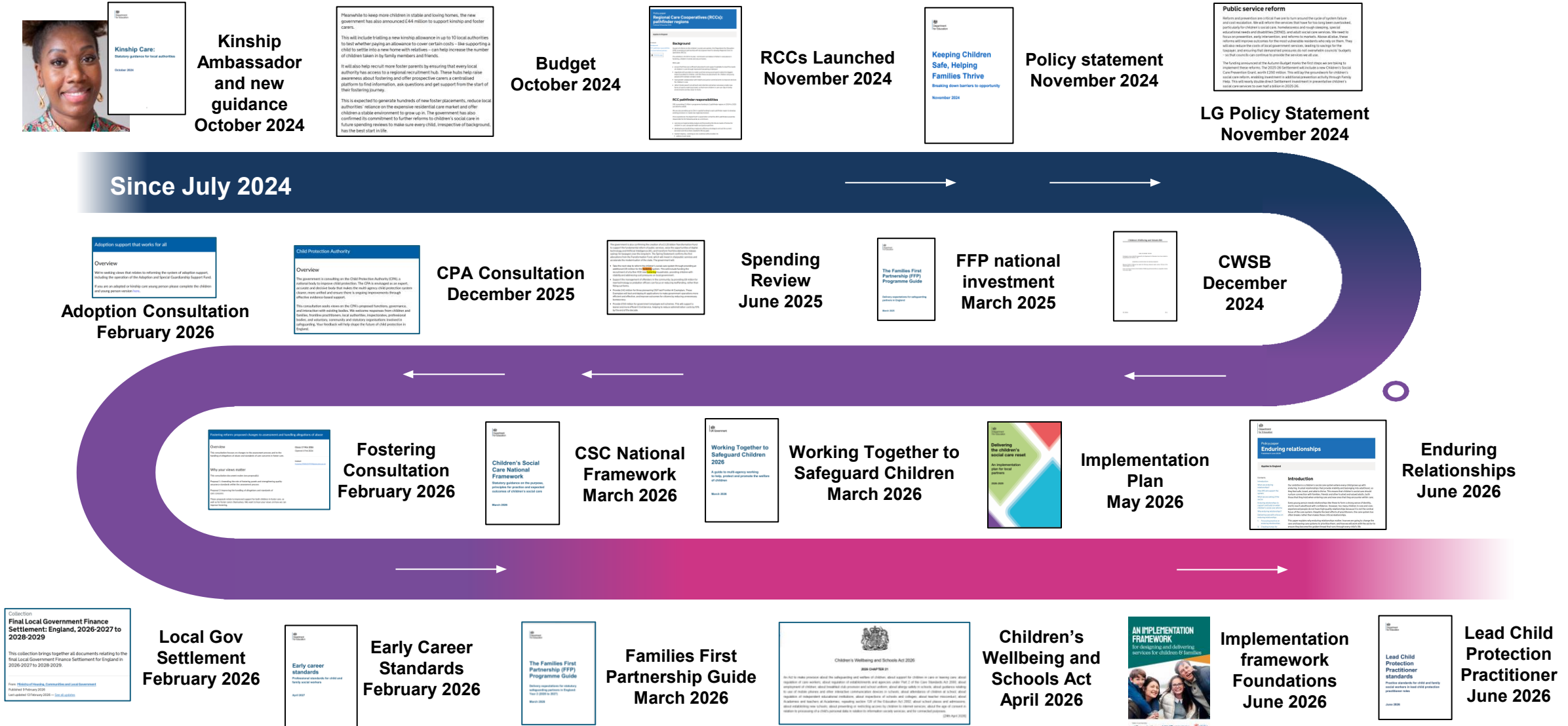
Presenters	
Minister Josh MacAlister Josh MacAlister was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families) at the Department for Education on 7 September 2025 and was elected as the MP for Whitehaven and Workington in July 2024.	Colin Pettigrew Colin brings over forty years of experience across children’s services, spanning local government, central government and the voluntary sector, with more than two decades operating as a system leader at the most senior level.

Housekeeping

Please use the Q&A function to provide question throughout the webinar. We will provide responses where possible and raise the key themes to discuss.

Microphones are currently muted to avoid background noise, but they will be enabled after the presentation to take questions.

Progress has been made since the general election to deliver reform to break down barriers to opportunity and give every child the chance to thrive



‘Delivering the children’s social care reset’ sets out the next stages of ambitious reform to CSC



- In November 2024, we published **Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive** which set out a vision for a transformed system.
- Building on this milestone, we have published **Delivering the Children’s Social Care Reset: an implementation plan for local partners**.
- It sets out how and when the measures within the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act (alongside relevant provisions in the Crime and Policing Act 2026), and **actions associated with our wider reform programme will be implemented** over the remainder of this Parliament.
- The plan shows how partners will collectively deliver on the outcomes and enablers in the **Children’s Social Care National Framework**.
- It is intended to serve as a **practical tool for local partners** to help you plan, prepare and sequence reforms.
- It provides **indicative timelines** for: commencing measures in these Acts, introducing regulations, and updating/publishing guidance, and when consultations will take place.

The implementation plan focuses on phase two of reform and the actions to deliver reform from May 2026 to the end of this spending review period

Phase 1 – Building Foundations

Up to May 2026, we have worked closely with the sector to lay the groundwork for major reform through transformational programmes, investment to scale them, and legislation.

Phase 2 - Driving Delivery

From May 2026, we will use input from the sector to shift to national reform by embedding and expanding programmes, raising our ambition and implementing measures set out in law.

Phase 3 - Sustaining change

From 2029 onwards, we will continue to work in partnership with the sector to take action to sustain and keep improving children's social care for future generations.

Implementation elements

Investment
Accountability
Support
Evidence
Data
Courts
Legislation
Guidance



Delivering reform

Families First
Enduring Relationships
Adoption support
Supporting the whole workforce

Implementation

The next phase of change will be supported by investment, updates to the inspection framework, an integrated offer of support, evidence and data, and a phased approach to implementing legislation and publishing guidance.

- **Investment:** the Families First Partnership Programme is backed by a historic £2.4 billion over this multi-year Settlement. The Department is also providing £245 million to deliver commitments in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, and ensure families have timely support and fix the broken care market, as well as £560 million of capital funding over the SR period to build, maintain and refurbish new open and secure children's homes
- **Accountability :** Ofsted plans to update [ILACs](#) and [The Social Care Common Inspection Framework](#) to align with the goals of reform
- **Support:** we will partner with sector experts to deliver integrated support to local partners, including through CSC Improvement Teams, Expert Advisors, National Facilitators and Multi-agency national facilitators
- **Data:** we will further develop a [Children's Social Care Dashboard](#) to show key progress towards a reformed system, test how data can be collected, shared and used through the private dashboard early adopters scheme, and continue to pilot a Single Unique Identifier for every child
- **Courts:** We will publish a Family Justice strategy to drive earlier resolutions for children, reduce demand and delays, and support families and court users
- **Evidence:** The What Works Centre for Children & Families will create [practice guides](#) to support local leaders in strengthening family services and deliver '[Evidence into Practice Programme](#)' to embed evidence in local service design and delivery

Delivering reform 1: Families First

Covering our transformation activity across help and protection, and kinship care.

The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide

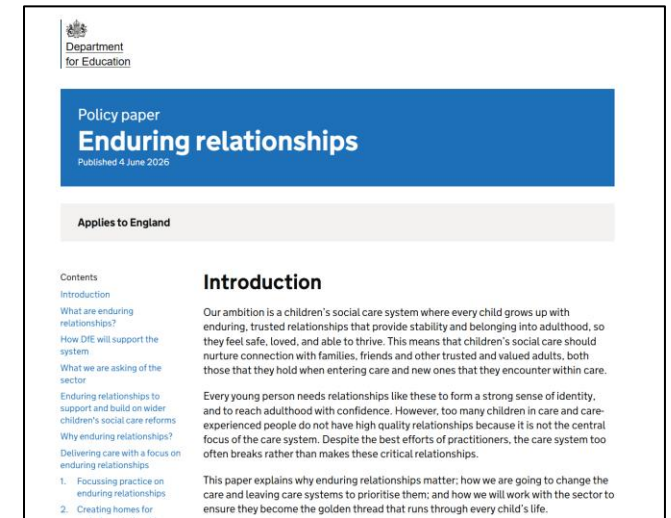
Delivery expectations for statutory safeguarding partners in England:
Year 2 (2026 to 2027)

March 2026

- Local partners will continue with the set up of the **Families First Partnership programme**, including implementing a single offer of Family Help for children and families.
- From Summer 2026, local authorities will be required to offer a **Family Group Decision Making meeting**, where it is in the child's best interests, at the point of the pre-proceedings stage, and will be required to publish a clear and accessible **kinship local offer**.
- During Summer 2026, government will publish a response to the consultation on establishing the **Child Protection Authority**.
- From Autumn 2026, local partners will have **new duties to share information** with each other for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of a child, and we will publish statutory guidance on multi-agency information sharing to replace existing non-statutory guidance.
- During 2027, new **statutory duty to report child sexual abuse** will come into force for anyone taking part in regulated activity with children in England (e.g. teachers, police officers and those working in voluntary roles with children).
- During 2027 (subject to consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny through the affirmative procedure), we will lay regulations to make it a statutory requirement to have **multi-agency child protection teams** in every area of the country and update Working Together to Safeguard Children to reflect this.
- During Autumn 2028, we will lay regulations for the **Single Unique Identifier**, which agencies are required to use it, and how its used.

Delivering reform 2: Enduring Relationships

Covering our transformation activity for children in care and care leavers.



The Government published the [Enduring Relationships Strategy](#) on 4 June setting out our vision for a children's social care system that prioritises and creates the conditions for children's relationships to flourish.

- Our plan to secure 10,000 more foster places by the 2029 is backed by £88 million. This includes £25 million in capital funding to enable experienced foster carers to **increase space in their homes**, and a **£12.4 million innovation programme** for local authorities to scale and spread new models of foster care over two years.
- From Autumn 2026, **the fostering rulebook** will be simplified for fostering services.
- From Spring 2026, in partnership with local authorities and Ofsted, we will take action to make sure the **right homes are built in the right areas of the country** for children in care, including through continued **capital investment**, and expansion of **regional care cooperatives**
- From Summer 2026, **Ofsted will use new powers to fine unregistered children's homes** providers. These homes lack oversight and safeguards and can pose significant safeguarding risks to children.
- During 2026, a **financial oversight scheme** will improve financial and corporate transparency of 'difficult to replace' care providers and their corporate owners
- Funding will continue to local authorities to provide **Staying Put** support to care leavers, with **Staying Close** becoming a national offer in Spring 2029.
- From Autumn 2026, there will be stronger requirements on local authorities as part of their **local offer for care leavers** to support children in care into adulthood and the government will also make sure **care leavers can no longer be classed as intentionally homeless**.
- From early 2027, a **provider oversight scheme** will allow Ofsted to request an improvement plan from provider groups, where they have serious and widespread concerns about the quality of care. Where improvement is not forthcoming, Ofsted will have the power to act, including issuing an unlimited fine.

Delivering reform 3:

Adoption support

Covering our transformation activity to support children and families through adoption.



- We will invest £55m in the **Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund** for 2026/27, with the fund continuing in 2027/28.
- From Spring 2026, **Regional Adoption Agencies** will be supported by Adoption England to improve adoption practice.
- From Autumn 2026, we will launch a new **universal parenting offer** for adopted and eligible kinship children transitioning into secondary school.
- From Autumn 2026, we will **respond to the consultation on adoption and kinship support** and bring forward plans for the longer-term future.
- From Autumn 2026, Ofsted will undertake a **thematic inspection of regional adoption agencies** to evaluate the quality, consistency, and impact of adoption support.
- From Spring 2027, we will lay regulations to align **adoption record retention** so that we can increase the period for pre-2005 adoptions from 75 years to 100 years.

Delivering reform 4:

Supporting the whole workforce

Covering our whole workforce across children's social care, including for social workers and the children's homes workforce.



- From Spring 2026, we will **review professional development for the children's homes workforce** and work with the sector to develop standards to improve quality and consistency of practice in children's homes, reporting to Ministers at the end of September 2026.
- From Spring 2026, we will continue investing in the **recruitment and initial training of social workers**, including in our national graduate programmes, Step Up to Social Work and Approach to Social Work.
- We will work with Ofsted to identify improvements to the **registration process for children's home managers**, including considering changes to regulations and procedures to streamline registration transfers when managers move between children's homes.
- From Autumn 2027 we will launch a new **Social Work National Professional Development Offer**, underpinned by recently published Early Career and Lead Child Protection Practitioner Standards, providing training routes spanning a social workers career, including a new two-year early career development programme, replacing the current Assessed and Supported Year in Employment.
- From Spring 2028, we will implement measures from the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act to **strengthen the regulatory framework on agency workers**, reducing costs and promoting more stable, relationship-based practice.

What constitutes successful reform, and how will you measure it?

1

The balance of spend in the system shifting from the costly crisis end towards preventative services will improve financial sustainability of the system in the long term.

2

More children remaining with their family or family network where safely possible and receiving support when they need it.

3

A reduction in the number of children experiencing harm, both in and outside of the home, and online.

4

Where children cannot remain with their immediate family, we want to ensure more focussed work to enable a child to remain in their broader family network with friends and family that know them. We want this to result in an increase in kinship arrangements and fewer placement breakdowns, or that there are stable, safe, and loving foster homes for children. We want to ensure that children are kept closer to their communities.

5

A focus on establishing enduring, loving relationships for children in care and care experienced young people.

6

An increase in recruitment and retention of sector staff, including social workers.



Children's Social Care National Framework

Statutory guidance on the purpose, principles for practice and expected outcomes of children's social care

March 2026

We will use metrics to monitor the impact of reform, that build on the Children's Social Care Dashboard and the Local Outcomes Framework and capture local authority progress towards the National Framework outcomes and enablers. We will use quarterly Families First Partnership data and identify other sources of data to monitor the set up and delivery of reformed services and outcomes for children and families.

What support is being offered



A [guidance collection page](#) has been developed showcasing documents for those working in the sector. New guidance will be added here as the reset continues.



From 1 July 2026, the CSC Improvement and Intervention Framework will move to a single, strengthened intervention model and simplified improvement offer.

The new model will be **aligned** with upcoming changes to ILACS, the outcome and enablers of the National Framework and the Families First Partnership programme, to ensure multi-agency working sits at the heart of reform implementation and everything we do in the system reinforces the same priorities.



Expert Advisers (EAs) will provide independent oversight, support and challenge.

CSC Improvement Teams (CITs) will provide hands-on, reform aligned, improvement support and delivery capacity.

Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances (RIAs) will be funded to facilitate regional delivery solutions that underpin reform.

Decisions to intervene will be based on a combination of Ofsted inspection outcomes, performance data, LA performance data and reform delivery, including FFP.



£2.4 billion investment into the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme over the next three years, all ringfenced for prevention.

£245 million to deliver commitments in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, ensure families have timely support, and fix the broken care market.

£560 million of capital funding over the spending review period to build, maintain and refurbish new open and secure children's homes.

If there are any more ways you believe you can be supported throughout this busy time of transition, please let us know

National Facilitators

Each partner sector has stood up **National Safeguarding Partner Facilitators** who work nationally across England to strengthen multi-agency partnership working.

They can support and facilitate local statutory partners to explore options and agree multi-agency safeguarding arrangement plans in line with multi-agency child safeguarding reform requirements.

Local Authority	Health	Police
Colin Pettigrew (Colin.PETTIGREW@education.gov.uk) Adrian Loades (Adrian.LOADES@education.gov.uk) Saleem Tariq (Saleem.TARIQ@education.gov.uk)	Kenny Gibson (kenny.gibson@nhs.net)	Lorraine Parker (lorraine.parker@college.police.uk) Nicky Porter (nicky.porter@college.police.uk)

Their main responsibilities are to provide expert multi-agency system leadership and tailored support to drive improvements in child protection and multi-agency safeguarding. This includes working closely with local safeguarding partnerships to promote best practice and respond to emerging issues.

They also connect on-the-ground practice with national policy making, advising the government on the implementation of reforms and representing local government views at national meetings and conferences.

Engagement / Consultation

Upcoming engagement opportunities and consultations will continue throughout this phase of reform.

- **DfE/LA Monthly Forum:** next meeting on 6th July
- **FFP Monthly Delivery Meeting:** next meeting on 21st July
- **Information Sharing Duty Consultation:** 2nd June – 14th July, **LIVE:** [Information sharing duty statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- **Statutory Framework Consultation:** 22nd June – 4th September, **LIVE:** [Improving help and child protection: revised framework - GOV.UK](#)
- **Fostering Standards Consultation:** 16th July – 24th September
- **Adoption and Record Keeping Consultation:** Summer
- **Corporate Parenting Guidance Consultation:** Autumn
- **Child Employment Consultation:** Autumn
- **Enduring Relationships Strategy Engagement:** Autumn