

COMMISSION EAST – Developing Regional Fostering & Residential Frameworks



Workshop # 2 Quality, Outcomes and Service Alignment with Children's Needs

Local Authorities we work with:



Today's Agenda



Date: Wednesday, 13 May 2026

Time: 1-3pm

Venue: Online - Teams

1pm	Welcome, introductions and purpose of today	James Tennant, Commission East
	Why are we here	James Purdie
	Why Frameworks	Paula Edwards
	Sufficiency data	Michael MacAllister
	Exercise – Outcomes	Break out rooms
	Actions & Next Steps	James Purdie
3pm	Close	James Tennant, Commission East



From talking to doing

1. Relational Commissioning and Co-Design

- In person –Red Lion, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire
- Wednesday, 15 April 2026

2. Quality, Outcomes & Service Alignment With Children's Needs

- Online
- Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- Fostering and Residential: 1 – 3: Join > [Residential workshop](#)

3. Commercial Sustainability

- In person –Red Lion, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire
- Thursday, 11 June 2026

4. Workforce Development and Continuous Improvement

- Online
- Thursday, 2 July 2026



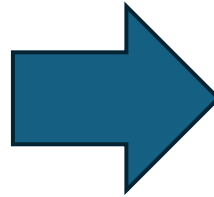
2. Quality, Outcomes & Service Alignment With Children's Needs



Focus: Understanding demand (specificity), spend, gaps, locality and future sufficiency.

Feedback from Exercise:

- *In House Sufficiency*
- *Standardisation*
- *Local Area needs and Demands*
- *Co Occurring needs , intersectionality – definition*
- *Consistent reportability*
- *Standardised approach to referrals*
- *Volume of referrals, age breakdown*
- *Standardised outcome measurement*
- *Outcomes*
- *An end-to-end system*
- *Strengths identified*
- *Strength's children are more than deficits*
- *Trend forecasting*
- *Mapping of need / sufficiency and projected need*
- *A way of ensuring Local authorities choose the right type of care for each child. In direct relation to their assessed need*
- *Being able access info in a timely manner*
- *Type of residential care required to serve the borough*
- *Individual unmet needs of each LA and barriers LAs are not able to place - cost, location, skill of carers etc*
- *Clear criteria of care need*
- *Agree your KPI's in advance. Stop asking IFA for data you already have. I.e. the number of referrals*



Core components:

- Develop a **regional sufficiency dataset**, including specificity, placement types, provider capacity, unmet need, high-cost cohorts, and gap analysis.
- Standardise **data definitions**, e.g., complexity levels, placement types
- Develop a **shared outcomes framework** rooted in lived experience and practice-based evidence.

Outputs:

- **Outcomes and quality framework - agree KPIs etc (workshop)**
- Process for early conversation about service development
- Standardised referral process (process vs content)
- Regional Needs & Sufficiency Report – this would help develop regional strategy

OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE !!



Purpose - why are we all here?



Frameworks - What we have heard so far



Make is simple to join and maintain– make the procurement process straightforward, don't ask for too many KPI's or things you already have.



Make it fair – expectations and behaviours to be mirrored across providers and the Local Authorities.



Make is attractive to join – explore incentives? Find ways to share risk and to create greater certainty around fee increases (workshop 3).



Make it inclusive – explore how we can adapt to support all providers, including supporting growth and sticking with providers when things get tough.





LA Requirements



- To meet statutory duties - Procurement Act 2023
- To adhere to Council's individual procedural rules to demonstrate value for money
- Due diligence - to ensure we are working with providers who offer safe, quality provision to our children.
- Achieve a clear set of standards, and where possible processes, across the East, to create efficiencies for us.
- To scaffold strong partnership working over the contract period and provide consistency through LGR.
- A mechanism to help Local Authorities manage risk and to help manage spend.



Frameworks – Opportunities for participating providers



- Total contract value Circa £4b over the 8 years
- Preferential access to referrals in line with each Council's processes
- Focus on child's needs at point of looking for a home.
- Improved collaborative planning existing and new provisions
- Access to mini competition to offer different arrangements such as block (where applicable); support pilot / innovation projects.
- Agreements that do not rely solely on individual relationships or current approaches and are aiming to provide consistency through Local Government Reorganisation.
- Reduced duplication and alignment of expectations across participating LA's in the East to create efficiencies for you.



Regional landscape – Sufficiency Data

**How can this help
Collaborative planning for
the future?**

Michael Macallister



Essex
Luton
Suffolk
Thurrock
Cambridgeshire
Bedford Borough
Central Bedfordshire
Peterborough
Hertfordshire
Southend
Norfolk

Framework Impact – how can we work together to achieve the aims of the framework?



Key Indicators of an Effective Framework

- **Localism:** local beds, for local heads, reduced reliance of out of area placements
- **Stability:** reduction of unplanned moves.
- **Consistency:** standardise templates and approach
- **Efficiencies:** LA's to avoid duplication of activities – doing things once, not 11 times
- **Alignment:** It aligns closely with existing day-to-day business activities.
- **Flexibility:** It can be adapted to different projects while still providing high-level structure.
- **Actionability:** It leads to specific and timely improvements in operations

- **Anything else – information sharing?**



Co-design outcomes framework and performance indicators



Q1, What indicators and outcomes do you already report on that could be adopted for this framework to avoid duplication?

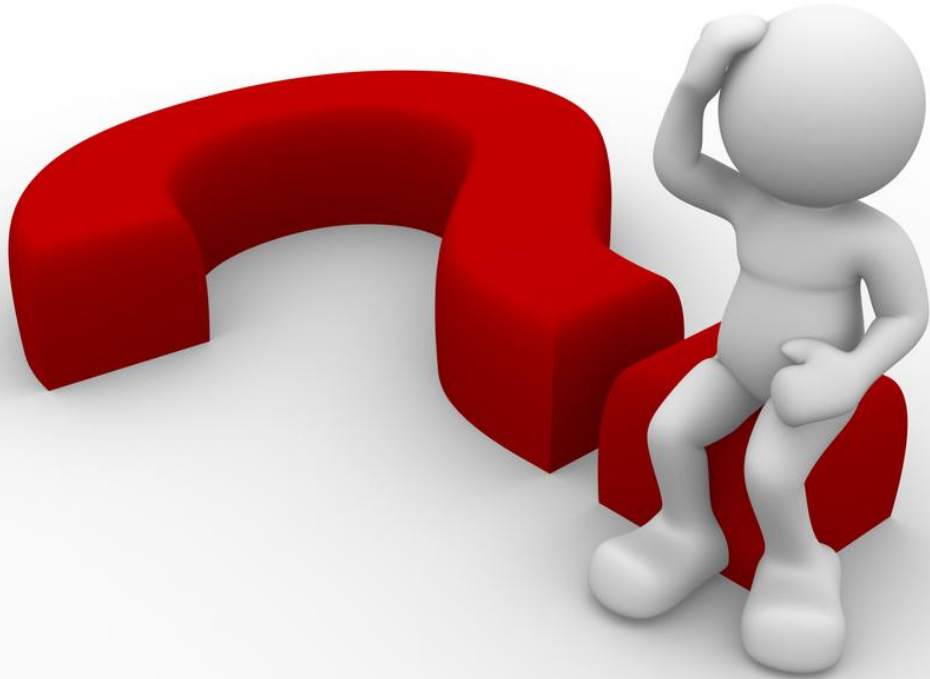
Q2, Do you have any examples of quality, or outcomes frameworks that are working well that could be adopted?

Q3, What additional information would be helpful to share to demonstrate the quality of outcomes you are achieving for children?





Q/A, Actions and Next Steps - All





END



Thank you

