



COMMISSION EAST - Workshop #1

Relational Commissioning & Co-Design

Local Authorities we work with:





Purpose – why are we here?

- Purpose of today: **kick start our 1st workstream - Relational Commissioning and Co-Design**
- Purpose of the project: **Create two regional Frameworks for Residential and Fostering Services**

James Tennant

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





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: 10 - 12 Join > [Fostering workshop](#)
- 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





Wider changes and context

- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - 1st April 2028
- DCS endorsement and commitment to regional frameworks
- Regional Care Cooperatives – DfE EOI webinar Thursday 16th at 11am



Exercise 1: Co-Producing regional Practice Principles



Re-cap from June's event



Re Cap - Commission East | Vision, Mission & Values



Re Cap - Commission East | Vision, Mission & Values



Vision

- ***Our vision is to create a resilient and sustainable system of care that ensures every child and young person has access to the right placement, at the right time, within their local community***

Mission

- *Our mission is to provide a diverse range of high-quality, stable, and nurturing environments that meet the unique needs of children and families and to reach this we have developed three strategic areas of focus to help design, develop and deploy transformational change across the sector. However, we need to work together and make this everyone's business, engaging hearts and minds across the region and creating **better commissioning relationships to improve innovation and collaboration with all our partners.***

Values

- **Purpose:** Care Matters, we are proud to make a difference for the Children, Families and the Communities we serve.
- **Ambitious:** Striving for the best possible outcomes and being deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people.
- **Innovative:** We are open, we share and learn to challenge traditional approaches, relentlessly pursuing ideas to improve the services we deliver.
- **Together:** We listen and contribute, whilst embracing creativity and collaboration to achieve our common purpose



Exercise 1:

Co-Producing regional Practice Principles



The Practice Principles should be designed to provide a broad, flexible approach that strengthens partnership working across varied local commissioning contexts. Rather than setting out fixed procedures, the Principles should act as a shared language and compass for commissioners, local authorities and provider partners that deliver a range of services.



Exercise 1:

Co-Producing regional Practice Principles



In Groups can you answer the following questions:

1. What principles are important to you, your service?

2. Are any specific to LAs, Providers or relate to just both



Exercise 1:

Co Pilot examples?



Child-Centred Practice

Quality & Professional Standards

Shared Responsibility for Stability

Relational and Respectful Working

Early, Honest Communication

Fair and Consistent Commercial Approach

Consistent Processes Across the Region



Exercise 2: Designing and Defining the Framework - Lucy Munt

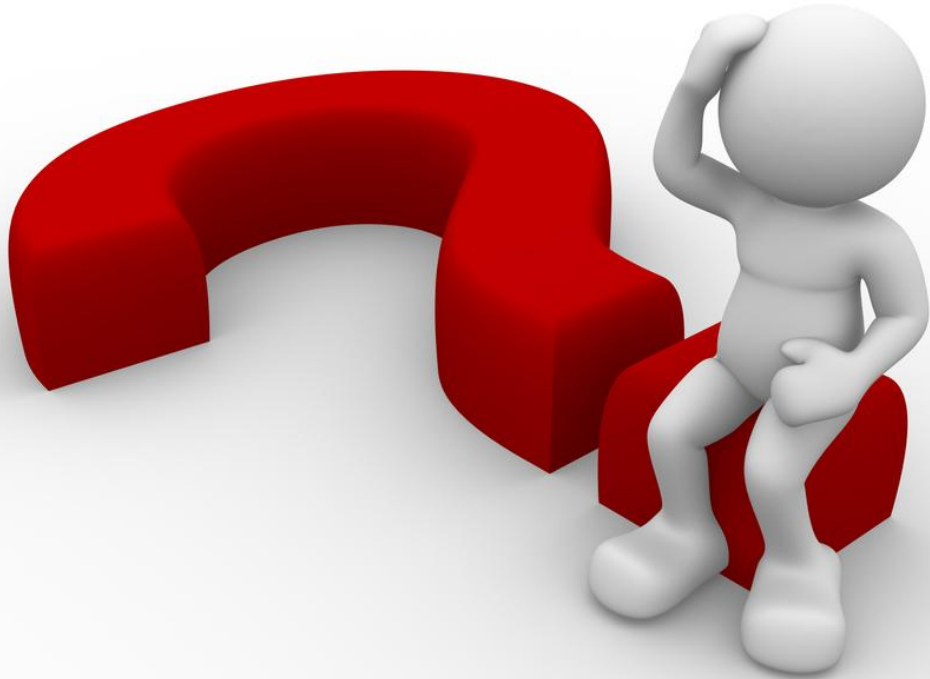


- What practices within Framework design assist you as a provider at the point of tendering to join the framework, and postimplementation?
- Discuss the use of mechanisms like 'LOTS' or 'grouping areas of need' such as 'therapeutic', 'parenting and child' within the framework. What is your preferred approach?
- What 'lots/areas of needs' would you suggest are specified within the framework
- Benefits (what frameworks are currently working well / what can we learn from them/adopt?)
- Disadvantages (what isn't/doesn't work well and why - what should we avoid)
- What practices within framework design add value for all
- What practices within Framework design assist pricing? What practices make pricing more challenging at the point of tendering and post implementation?





Q/A, Actions and Next Steps - All





Commission East contact details



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About us - Commission East

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





END



Thank you

