



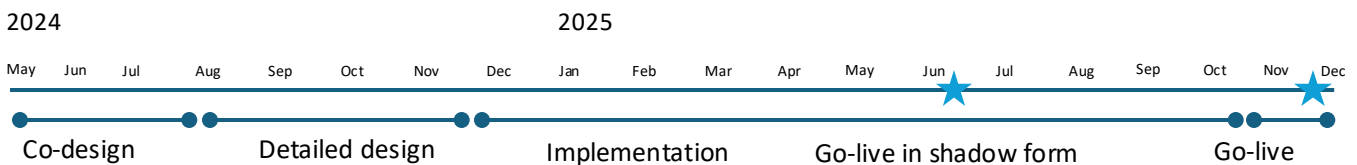
## Update from Lucy Butler

Welcome to the South East RCC pathfinder newsletter. We are planning to share these every two months so that you are kept up to date with developments on this fast moving project. As well as bringing a deluge of rain, Autumn is proving to be a busy time as we work on business cases for local authorities (LAs) and deliver workshops with both the Children's Homes Association and our ICB colleagues. We are exploring ways of attracting more capital via DfE funding (Complex Needs bids mentioned in more detail below) and looking at the interface of the RCC and the National Transfer Scheme. We have been

invited to deliver a session at NCASC so if you are there, please come along, and we are holding a workshop at the Supported Living Conference in November. We are also doing an information session with SE Lead Members. Looking longer term, we are working out what is best in terms of the organisational form for the RCC and hope to have a paper for the Board in December.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and please get in touch if you want to find out anything more.

## Project timeline



## Data update

A key part of our plan for the RCC is to improve and extend our use of data. We think that sharing existing data within the region, and identifying new requirements for intelligence and insight, will make us better at helping the children, families, and carers who rely on us, by helping us to inform care provision, commissioning, and sufficiency across the region.

LA colleagues helped us start this work at our first data workshop on 10th October, and we're now working to draft an initial data specification and data sharing arrangements for consideration by partners. This will be an iterative process for the RCC; we want to start sharing initial regional data outputs as soon as possible, and then extend our capabilities as we're able to bring new tools or datasets online. The feedback from LAs at the first workshop was hugely helpful in kickstarting this process, and we continue to welcome input from interested colleagues in all LAs.

Alongside this, we're working on the data infrastructure we'll need to safely process, analyse and share data regionally, and we're working with the Greater Manchester RCC team to explore areas where we could share some of that work to keep costs low and outputs valuable. We'll be in touch soon about that work.

## Workforce academy update

Although the workforce workstream has been slower to get off the ground, we are excited for the potential impact it could make. We know how important it is to fully consult with the region before designing programmes, and are working with Melani Oliver of The Staff College to gather your thoughts on issues facing the workforce which we can tackle together. Melani has reached out to many of you already and we appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.



## **RCC set-up update**

Setting up the organisation for success has been at the forefront of our minds over the past month and a half. We are still going through the rigorous options appraisal process to determine which organisational form will allow us to deliver the most value for the region. The three options under consideration are: a Shared Service, a Local Authority Trading Company or an independent entity – probably in the form of a Public Sector Mutual. We plan to take a preferred option to the RCC board in December.

## **Commissioning update**

As commissioning activity for the South East RCC continues to gain momentum, it has been a pleasure meeting with leads from across the region. We have had the chance to hear about the exciting work underway, discuss challenges, and explore ways to collaborate in shaping and informing the development of the RCC.

We are also actively engaging with providers and sector leaders through several key upcoming events, as mentioned below.

In addition, **the Government is set to launch new capital grant funding** aimed at building 200 new beds nationally for children and young people with complex needs. The RCC is keen to develop a cooperative bid to ensure that the right homes are provided locally for our children. More news about this exciting opportunity will be shared soon, and a working group will be established for local authorities interested in getting involved.

Furthermore, work is beginning to develop a **pilot programme using the BERRI assessment tool**, which will enhance our understanding of the needs of children and young people, leading to more informed placement planning. More details will be available soon.

## **Children and Young People engagement update**

We are thrilled to be working with Luke Rogers from Care Leaders to ensure that the voices of children and young people are central to the design and operation of the RCC. Luke is in the process of designing an element of governance to incorporate a board of care-experienced young people. The board will input on operational decisions and ensure that we are doing work 'with' young people, rather than 'to' them.

## **Upcoming events**

We are very pleased to be joining the Children's Homes Association at their **CHA South-East Regional Meeting** on November 1st in Newbury. This is a valuable opportunity for the sector to engage directly in the design of the RCC model and ensure that it reflects the needs and perspectives of providers.

We will be attending the **National Supported Accommodation Conference** in Birmingham on the 8th of November and the **National Children and Adult Services Conference** on the 27th and 28th of November. Lucy Butler, the Director of the RCC, will be speaking at the conferences and we will have stands at both events, please come along and say hello!

We are also running workshops for local DCS colleagues on 4th November, and the Voluntary Sector on November 21st. Please contact [regionalcarecooperative@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:regionalcarecooperative@westsussex.gov.uk) for more details on any of these events.

Thank you for engaging with the South East RCC.

If you have any feedback or would like to discuss anything we've brought up in this newsletter, please get in touch via email: [regionalcarecooperative@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:regionalcarecooperative@westsussex.gov.uk).