



CHILDREN'S SERVICES CASE STUDY

County Council

NEWTON



Summary

Prior to engaging Newton, the children's directorate was on a journey of improvement from an overall Ofsted rating of "requires improvement". Their challenge was to accelerate this journey whilst reversing an unsustainable trajectory of spend.



129

129 staff participated in workshops to review 181 cases

77%

77% of these staff said it made them think differently

10m

Over 10m rows of data were studied

62%

62 staff participated in further surveys

The design was tested through pilots, giving further opportunity for input, and ensuring future ways of working were fit for purpose. We iterated and finalised the design, before preparing teams for full roll out – ensuring they had the skills, information, and support to implement new ways of working council-wide.



Results



- The number of children going into residential care **decreased from 40 per year to 17**, through more timely and effective interventions.
- By focusing on how the Locality and Kinship teams could better work together to achieve the best outcome, the council is **on track to achieve a 90% increase** in the number of children achieving permanence outside of care via a special guardianship order (SGO).
- In Disabled Children's services, we improved links between the Children and Adults' social care teams, to ensure a more effective transition. This enabled the transitions team to engage with the young person earlier; **the initial age of engagement fell from 17 ¾ to 16 ½** with some being considered as early as 14.
- In SEN Transport, we reviewed fleet and business cases, developed a 'should-cost' model and created dashboards to provide **cost oversight and throughput visibility**.

The principle that underpinned the programme was getting the right support at the right time for children and families no matter where they lived in the county, an approach that also delivered significant financial benefit. The programme overall delivered **£16.8m of annualised financial benefit**.



More about Newton

We work in partnership with local government to reimagine public services, in a way that guarantees to improve outcomes and reduce cost. We stand by our ability to deliver measurable benefit and put 100% of our fees at risk against delivering agreed results.

To find out more or to speak to us about how we can help your organisation, please do get in touch.

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