



CSAP Guidance & Safeguarding Arrangements for Children in Our Care from Out of Area placed in Provisions within Lancashire

Pan-Lancashire approach to supporting improved
Standards of Care and Safeguarding Arrangements

Publication Date:
June - 2023

Private Residential Care Provision Guidance
Review date: Dec 2023
Version: 1.0

Children's
Safeguarding Assurance
Partnership
Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire

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Introduction

This document is CSAP's guidance for addressing and continually improving our approach to safeguarding arrangements for children living in Private Residential Care Provisions and Children's homes within Lancashire.

In 2021 according to UK government statistics 80,850 children were placed in care by English local authorities at any point during the year. The number of children in our care is growing every year and there has been a 2% increase since 2020. ([Children looked after in England including adoptions, 2021](#))

Children in care are some of the most vulnerable in society in comparison to their peers and are more likely to experience homelessness, mental health difficulties and are often overrepresented in the criminal justice system. ([Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children, 2015](#))

The main reasons nationally that children are required to be in the care of the local authority is due to abuse and neglect experienced in their families. However, more and more adolescents are taken into care due to risks outside their families, such as child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation and are victims of human trafficking. The [Still in Harm's Way report \(2018\)](#) identified that children in care are significantly more likely to be reported missing than those not in care, with over 1 in 10 going missing compared to 1 in 200 of those not in care.

This is often an increased risk for children who are required to be placed away from their home. As of 31 March 2021, there was an 11% increase in the number of homes and an 8% increase in the number of places compared with 31 March 2020. Although there was a smaller gap between them this year, it continues the long-standing trend of the number of new homes rising faster than the number of new places.'

Although all regions saw an increase in numbers, children's homes are still not evenly distributed across England. The North West still accounts for just over a quarter of all children's homes, and almost a quarter of all places. The number of Children's homes in North West as at 31 March 2021 was at a total of 636 which was a 13% increase from the year before. Many of these homes are privately run and difficult to monitor any potential safeguarding concern. Whilst assurance visits and inspection visits are carried out at registered settings, these were prioritised based on concerns related to the care or protection of children. Alongside regulatory inspection visits, Ofsted receive and investigate potentially unregistered children's homes to determine if they should 'cease and apply' or did not require to register. [Main findings: children's social care in England 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The number of children in care placed in unregulated settings has increased from 2,900 in 2009 to 6,490 in 2020.- [Introducing national standards for unregulated provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Purpose of guidance

The purpose of this guidance document is to support improved information sharing arrangements to support effective safeguarding arrangements for all children placed into private residential care provisions or children's homes in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

The aim of this document is to:

- Set out the standards and expectations Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) has of Local Authorities, residential care provisions and children's home when children in our care are placed in the geographical footprint
- Sets out minimum standards that CSAP has of residential care providers and homes who provide care to children in our care
- Provide contact information for different partner agencies in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire

This guidance should also be read in conjunction with the following policies and guidance:

- [Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards April 2015 DFE](#)
- [CSAP Safeguarding Children procedures](#)
- [Pan-Lancashire Missing from Home Joint Protocol](#)
- <https://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>
- [The Children's Commissioner July 2022 -Reforming children's homes: a policy plan of action](#)
- [Government response to the national standards for independent and semi-independent provision for looked-after children and care leavers aged 16 and 17 2021](#)
- [Planning permission requirements for Children's Homes in particular Section 106 for Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.](#)

This guidance applies to:

- Local Authorities Placing Children within Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire
- Residential Care Provision Providers in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire
- Any private children's home that is accessed by children in our care within the Lancashire footprint

Local Service Provision

The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership consists of statutory partners and agencies from three Local Authorities, Police and Health working together across Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen. Ensuring a consistent approach with regards to early intervention and targeted support for children and families is important to allow the right support at the right time.

CSC /LADO Contacts

Blackburn With Darwen

Blackburn with Darwen have smaller sub teams within their Children's services teams with the first point of contact being The Children's Advice & Duty Service (CADS). They are the single point of contact for the Blackburn with Darwen area receiving all safeguarding and children in need enquiries including Children in Our Care Team, Leaving Care, BwD Youth Justice Service and Fostering and adoption.

In addition to Social Workers, the CADS team has involvement from partner agencies such as Engage, Education, Police, Adult Social Care, Health, domestic abuse services, Housing, Probation and Inspire. There are virtual links with the Fire Service, Youth Justice Service and Early Help.

All contacts into the Children's Advice & Duty Service are overseen by Social Workers within the Children's Advice & Duty Service who undertaken appropriate and proportionate enquiries to determine, in conjunction with referrers, and where appropriate, our partners, as to how the family will receive the most appropriate level of support they require.

Contact details:

Monday to Friday: 08:45 to 17:00 telephone: 01254 666400

Emergency out-of-hours (evenings and weekends) telephone: 01254 587547

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk and in need of protection then you should call the police on 999 immediately.

Blackpool

The 'Blackpool Families Rock' Request for Support Hub (formerly known as MASH) is in place in Blackpool and is central to triaging work through to the right teams. The primary task of the Request for Support Hub is to provide advice, support and triage/screen referrals and phone calls to Children's Social Care. It is a "one front door" to Children's Social Care and is designed to ensure that referrals are signposted to the appropriate service in line with the Levels of Need outlined within the Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire, which sets out the Pan Lancashire agreement for how we offer Support for children and families.

The 'Blackpool Families Rock' Request for Support Hub brings together agencies from services that have contact with children at risk to make the best possible use of their combined knowledge to keep them safe from harm. It enables those agencies in the Request for Support Hub to share relevant and

appropriate information lawfully and securely with others so that a true and balanced risk assessment can be made and appropriate intervention agreed.

The Request for Support Hub provides a 'first point of contact' for Children's Social Care enabling members of the public and professionals to raise concerns about the welfare of children. This may include children identified as potentially needing support or at risk of suffering abuse.

Contact details:

For professionals only - Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm, Friday 9am – 4:30pm

Telephone: 01253 478959

To make information sharing as easy as possible during the first Covid lockdown Blackpool Council children's services introduced the children.partners.update@blackpool.gov.uk mailbox. This has now been made a permanent way for practitioners in partner agencies to share information about children who are already open to children's social care.

If you suspect or believe that a child is currently suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm or any form of mistreatment or abuse, to report your concerns immediately by making telephone contact with the Blackpool Families Rock Request for Support Hub on 01253 477299.

Lancashire

Lancashire are committed to working with the children and families in our communities to provide the right level of support at the right time. There is lots of support universally available to all children and families across Lancashire. These services can offer families experiencing difficulties help and guidance and can prevent them from requiring intensive family support or statutory intervention. If you're a professional (including teaching, health or social work), use the [request for support form](#) to request support or raise safeguarding issues. To send notifications of moves in, out or changes of address for children looked after, please send notifications to cypsupportcla@lancashire.gov.uk

Based on the form, the [Children's Services Support Hub](#) will consider which service is best equipped to provide services in line with the Continuum of Need.

Professionals can request support or raise safeguarding issues to the hub using the [Children's Services Request for Support Form](#).

Contact details:

0300 123 6720 or 0300 123 6722 if out of hours

For contact details of Local Authorities, the ADCS national list of each local authority can be found via <https://adcs.org.uk/contacts/out-of-area-looked-after-children-notifications-england>

LADO or Designated Officer

When concerns are raised about the conduct or behaviour of any adult who works with children and young people, whether they are paid or volunteering their time, they should be shared with the Designated Officer who will provide advice and guidance and be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases.

Further information regarding the procedures in the event of an allegation against staff or volunteers can be found here: https://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_allegations.html

The contact details for LADO within each area are:

Blackburn with Darwen: lado@blackburn.gov.uk or 01254 666488

Blackpool: lado@blackpool.gov.uk or 01253 477558

Lancashire County Council: LADO.Admin@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 536 694

MISSING FROM HOME LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

In Lancashire, children go missing for a range of reasons. These children are not always open to services at the point they go missing. For many children, the [push and pull factors](#) are many and varied.

The data for children who go missing whilst in care is significantly higher than those children who are not in care.

If you believe that a child is at critical risk or there is a critical concern, this should be reported without delay to the Police service; for emergencies use 999, or for urgent/immediate reporting 101 as well as making contact with Children's Services.

Reporting a child missing from care

All Local Authority Care Homes and care settings acting on behalf of the various Local Authorities contact the police as follows and private provisions should also consider this best practice:

1. In circumstances that are deemed as being High risk. That being defined as 'The risk of serious harm to the subject or the public is assessed as very likely. Then a call on 999 should be made.
2. For all other levels of risk then contact with the police will be made using the 101-telephone system.

Both the 999 and the 101 system will route a call into the Force Control Room.

Notifying Local Authority Children's Services:

- Blackburn with Darwen Council: 01254 666400 (if out of hours: 01254 587547)
- Blackpool Council: 01253 477638 or by emailing missingchildren@blackpool.gov.uk (if out of hours: 01253 477600, or by emailing: outofhours@blackpool.gov.uk)
- Lancashire County Council: 0300 123 6720 (if out of hours: 0300 123 6722)

Notifying relevant Health professionals

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre)

- For all children: bfwh.contextualteam@nhs.net / 01253 951265

HCRG Care Group (Lancashire)

- The missing child is 'In Care': Vcl.019.lookedafterteam@nhs.net
- The missing child is not 'In Care': Vcl.019.safeguardingteam@nhs.net

Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust (Blackburn with Darwen)

- Safeguarding and Children in Care teams: CFHS.CFHS@lscft.nhs.uk

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

- Safeguarding and Children in Care Team: safeguarding@mbht.nhs.uk

The Virtual School

The statutory guidance for local authorities "[Promoting the education of Children in our care and previously in our care children](#)" February 2017, states that local authorities have a specific duty to promote a cared for child's 'educational achievement, wherever they live or are educated. The authority must, therefore, give particular attention to the educational implications of any decision about the welfare of those children.' The role of the Virtual School Head (VSH) is statutory. The VSH is the lead responsible officer for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of the authority's children in care, including those placed out-of-authority.

Advice and information for social workers from other local authorities who place a child in care in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Pan Lancashire and who require a school place/support can be accessed via the locality VS contact details.

Blackpool: virtual.school@blackpool.gov.uk

Blackburn with Darwen: virtual.school@blackburn.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council: virtualschool@lancashire.gov.uk

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Youth Justice Services

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 lays out statutory requirements for youth justice teams. "[The Standards for children in the youth justice system](#)" define the minimum expectation for all agencies that provide statutory services to ensure good outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

The service works with children who have either committed an offence or identified as being at risk of doing so. The service has embedded a child-first, restorative and trauma informed ethos into its work and strives to reduce the impact on victims and communities of crime by supporting children to maintain positive, healthy, pro-social futures. The service has a key focus on the prevention and diversion of children out of criminal justice processes, offering the right help at the right time.

Contact details:

Blackpool: yot@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: 01253 754840

Blackburn with Darwen: Youth.Justice.Service@blackburn.gov.uk Tel: 01254 666995

Lancashire Constabulary Police

Lancashire Constabulary is responsible for the policing of the geographic area known as Lancashire. It covers an area of 1,184 square miles with a population of over 1.51 million people. It has a rich diversity of communities, spread over a large geographical area all with specific policing needs. The Constabulary is split into three divisions, West, South and East.

To ensure it fulfils the commitment to policing Lancashire, the workforce is made up of over 3,000 Police Officers and 2,500 Police Staff – of which 290 are PCSOs and 460 Special Constabulary Officers, Police Cadets and Community Volunteers.

The Constabulary is committed to continually looking at ways it can work with partners to improve the quality and safety of the lives of the communities it polices. The Constabulary will always look to ensure that the right care is being delivered by the right professional / agency in all its work.

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Under the Children Act 1989, CCGs (now ICBs) and NHS England have a duty to comply with requests from a local authority to help them provide support and services to children in care. Local authorities, ICBs and NHS England can only carry out their responsibilities to promote the health and welfare of children in our care if they co-operate ([Section 10 Children Act 2004](#)). The updated statutory guidance '[Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children](#)' (Statutory Guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England) was issued in March 2015 and sets out the responsibilities of all agencies for the planning, commissioning, and delivery of health services for children in our care. Provision of Health Services for Children and Young People in Our Care and Care Leavers forms part of the NHS's response to its obligations as a statutory partner and is within their corporate parenting role.

Under the responsible commissioner guidance, June 2022, commissioning responsibilities for provision of services for children in care placed outside of their original ICB footprint remain with their original ICB. NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board are committed to ensure all children and young people residing in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire have access to equitable and quality health care services.

Enhanced Children in Care Health Teams

The ICB as part of their statutory responsibilities commission enhanced children in care health teams. The key role and responsibilities in improving outcomes for children in our care are as follows:

- co-ordination of the statutory health assessment for children in care and that the health assessments and care planning results in positive health outcomes and proactive management of health issues for children in care
- Improve health and wellbeing through support to access immunisations, dental checks, and routine health screening

- Provide health advice to professionals supporting children in care around access to and navigating health services
- Receive and manage notifications to support transfer of health provision for children who become resident in the locality area and co-ordinate the health needs of those children originating from Lancashire who are placed out of area

Contact details:

Blackpool- bfwh.contextualteam@nhs.net Tel: 01253 951265

East Lancashire- CLA.Team@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01254 283399

Central Lancashire- CL.Safeguarding@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01772 777220

Blackburn with Darwen- CLA.Team@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01254 283399

West Lancashire- CL.Safeguarding@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01772 777220

North Lancashire- mbh-tr.cla.team@nhs.net Tel: 01524 512449

Fylde and Wyre- bfwh.contextualteam@nhs.net Tel: 01253 951265

Public Health Commissioned Health Services

Public Health commission O-19 health visiting and school universal health services who undertake the review health assessments for children in our care following requests via the Enhanced Children in Care Health Teams received from the placing local authority and ICB.

In Lancashire this is provided by the HCRG specialized team of children in care nurses. They can be contacted via vcl.019.lookedafterteam@nhs.net

In Blackburn with Darwen this is provided by LSCFT 0-19 Health visiting and school nurse service. They can be contacted via CFHS.CFHS@lscft.nhs.uk

In Blackpool this is provided by BTHFT 0-16 Health visiting and school nurse service. They can be contacted via bfwh.blackpoolschoolnurses@nhs.net and bfwh.blackpoolhealthvisitors@nhs.net

Statutory Duties and Legislation

There will be circumstances where a distant placement will be the most suitable for a child, such as where the child concerned has complex treatment needs that cannot be met by services within the area of the responsible authority. There will also be children who require an out of authority placement to ensure they can be effectively safeguarded. Such placements will require effective planning, engagement and information sharing with the services likely to be responsible for meeting the child's needs in the future. This guidance document is to enable partners and placements to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place prior to the child being placed.

The paragraphs below set out the statutory duties that placing local authorities and other agencies have:

[‘Children Act 1989: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review’ Volume 2. \(July 2015\).](#) This is statutory guidance about what responsibilities local authorities have for supporting children and families namely:

- Placing the child at the centre.
- Effective care planning.
- Ensuring a child or young person is provided with accommodation which meets his/her needs.
- Ensuring that an effective review is conducted of the child's case within the specified timescales.
- As a corporate parent, the local authority with parental responsibility must act as the best possible parent and to advocate on behalf of the child to secure the best possible outcomes.
- The responsible authority should consider the care home's Statement of Purpose
- In making a judgment about the suitability of a placement, the responsible authority should assess the arrangements which it will need to put in place to enable the child to access primary and secondary health care.
- Where specialist healthcare is required like CAMHS, the local ICB should be consulted, so the responsible authority can establish whether the placement is appropriate and able to meet the child's needs.
- The responsible authority placing the child must make sure that the appropriate persons and services in the area authority are notified.
- For emergency placements, the placing authority must be satisfied that the placement is appropriate, and the notification requirements must be made within five working days.

[‘Sections 22A to 22D Children Act’ 1989.](#) These sections provide guidance on placing children appropriately. Section 22C (5) states that the responsible authority should place the child in the ‘most appropriate placement available’ that will best promote and safeguard the child's welfare.

[‘Children's Homes and Children in Care \(Miscellaneous Arrangements\) \(England\) Regulations’ \(2013\).](#) The statutory guidance states that local authorities are required to consult and share information before placing children in distant placements. It also requires local authorities to provide looked after children with high quality care and support. It states that these placements will require effective planning, engagement and information sharing by the placing local authority.

[Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010. Regulation 11\(2\)\(d\)\(ii\) \(as amended\)](#) requires the responsible authority to consult with the area authority when they are considering making a distant placement in good time to enable a thorough assessment of appropriateness

[Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked-after children, Statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England \(March 2015\)](#) statutory guidance on the planning, commissioning, and delivery of health services for looked-after children. This is joint statutory guidance from the Department for Education and the Department of Health. It is for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England and under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 and they must have regard to it when exercising their functions.

N.B These requirements and obligations transferred from CCG to the ICB on the 1st of July 2022.

Requirements of Partners placing Children

When local authorities are placing a child into Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire, in line with statutory guidance above the below activity is required as expected practice:

1. The placing local authority will ensure that their child is living in a " Suitable placement"
2. The placing local authority informs Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire County Council that they intend to place a child in the area and completes the STATUTORY NOTIFICATION OF NEW PLACEMENT or TERMINATION OF PLACEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1989 CHILDREN ACT
3. In the event of a Termination of Placement, the area authority shall notify the other authority of that fact and the placing authority shall make arrangements for the care of the child as soon as is practicable. Any decision should be communicated via a notice in writing
4. A child will not be made homeless. If in circumstances the care setting wants to withdraw a placement, then both the placing authority and the authority in which the child is being accommodated must agree what legal process can be used in order to accommodate the child. The use of Emergency Police Protection Powers cannot be considered as being an appropriate use if a placement offer is being removed. The interests of the child should be at the centre of a multi-agency decision.
5. The placing ICB/Children in Care Team must also notify the local Enhanced Children in Care Health Team and ICB that they have placed in the area within a timely manner (48 hours) via the following generic email addresses:

Blackpool- bfwh.contextualteam@nhs.net Tel: 01253 951265

East Lancashire- CLA.Team@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01254 283399

Central Lancashire- CL.Safeguarding@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01772 777220

Blackburn with Darwen- CLA.Team@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01254 283399

West Lancashire- CL.Safeguarding@lscft.nhs.uk Tel: 01772 777220

North Lancashire- mbh-tr.cla.team@nhs.net Tel: 01524 512449

Fylde and Wyre- bfwh.contextualteam@nhs.net Tel: 01253 951265

6. Individual healthcare plans including a copy of most recent health assessment are shared with the relevant health provider in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire as soon as they are notified. If it is an emergency placement, then the health action plan must be shared as soon as practicable and within 3 working days.
7. Lancashire Constabulary will be informed of children who move into area and there is information to suggest they are at risk of exploitation or of going missing. Any associated risks should be communicated as well as any existing Trigger plans within 24 hours of the child being placed. If a Trigger plan / Philomena Protocol does not exist for a child that is known to be at risk, then a risk assessment should be produced within 48 hours and shared via forceintelligence@lancashire.police.uk

8. This information will be reviewed when it is received and will be shared with other health providers as appropriate and in line with GDPR requirements to support continued delivery of health provision e.g., GP and 0-19 services
9. The information provided on the statutory notification form by local authorities must include the developmental needs of the child and the services required to meet those needs in detail. It must include health and education dimensions to it in detail.
10. The information on the statutory notification form must describe why a particular placement has been chosen and it must include specific, achievable, child focused outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. It must set out the roles and responsibilities of the child's carers and practitioners.
11. When a suitable placement has been identified for the child the information within the statutory notification form must set out in detail how the placement is intended to contribute to meeting the child's needs.
12. All children placed into Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire must have an individual care plan and a placement plan. It is recognised that some children placed into the county may also remain on a child protection plan, where safeguarding issues remain.
13. Adherence to contractual obligations of all child placements within Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire are the responsibility of the placing local authority.
14. When a placing local authority has concerns about a private residential care provision, they must in addition inform Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire's Local Authorities.
15. If a child is placed into Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire who is at risk of, or a victim of child exploitation, then this child must be brought to the attention of the Child Exploitation Teams and Lancashire Constabulary. This must be done by contacting the Local Authority Team in the locality the child resides. Lancashire Constabulary can be contacted via forceintelligence@lancashire.police.uk
16. All allegations made against a member of staff in a Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire placement should always be referred to the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire LADO as the first point of contact, not the local authority area that has placed the child. Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire LADO services will take responsibility for the management of the allegation, including liaising with children's social care and other relevant agencies e.g., police and health.
17. When Child in care is being placed out of area, it is the responsible authority who must ensure that the child's health needs can be met at the proposed placement. To do this they need to:
 - Work with local health care teams and utilise the health care plan to establish what the child's health needs are and what is required to meet these needs.

- Where the child will require specialist health services such as CAMHS or other specialist paediatric services, the responsible authority and placing ICB should consult with the ICB that commissions secondary healthcare in the host area to establish whether the placement is appropriate and able to meet the child's needs.
18. Where the child has complex needs, the responsible authority and placing ICB can have a discussion with the Designated and Named Professionals for children in care in the host area authority, who will be a valuable source of advice and information.
19. The responsible authority, as a corporate parent should work with children's home staff and health provider/ children in care services locally to secure the health services that each child needs. Social workers and other relevant officers in the authority responsible for a child in care should work with the home and local health teams to:
- Agree the specific responsibilities of the home towards supporting the health needs of every child at the time the placement is made.
 - Ensure that these responsibilities are recorded in the child's placement plan. This must include recording permission from a person with parental responsibility for the child for staff to administer first aid and non-prescription medication, and clearly agreed responsibilities for the administration of prescription medication.
 - Be confident that staff in the home have sufficient understanding of relevant local health provision, and can support children to navigate these services, advocating on their behalf where necessary and appropriate.

Expectations for Private Residential Care Homes and Children's homes

1. Accept children ensuring that there has been consideration of any potential increased risk of harm to the individual and those children already placed in the residential care provision.
2. To support local partnership working, when a child moves into or no longer resides in your residential home providers should complete the notification form (see appendix 1) and share with the local authority (and Enhanced Children in Care Health Team).
3. Ensure all staff recruited received suitable training and are qualified and in line with safer recruitment policies.
4. Staff receive relevant training which includes a Trauma Informed approach to care and safeguarding.
5. Ensure that staffing levels are suitable to provide the required standard of care and these levels are enough to respond effectively to foreseeable events. This should include an endeavour to provide as high a degree of continuity of care staff for individual children and young people as possible.
6. The DFE Guide to Children's Home regulations including the quality Standards -April 2015 sets out in Regulation 5 - engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met that the home also has a responsibility in this respect. (See 2.3-2.7) There is a requirement that children's home notify their host local authority when a child is placed with them by another authority. The form in Appendix A must also be completed and shared with the local area health Provider.
7. Each Independent Residential Children's home, commissioned to provide care and support will be bound by a set of contractual terms and conditions. It is recognized that providers of residential care will have registration with Ofsted, CQC or other equivalent regulatory bodies and are therefore expected to conform to regulations and a prescribed set of minimum quality standards.
8. Providers are expected to demonstrate they can provide a good level of care as set out in the Children's Home regulations.
9. All staff respond appropriately and in a timely manner to any safeguarding concerns that are raised/identified in respect of the child/young person and act in accordance with internal safeguarding policies and in line with the CSAP Safeguarding Children policies and procedures. [click here](#)
10. When required as appropriate, work closely with agencies, LADO to improve standards of care and safeguarding for children in private residential care provisions.

Health Expectation

1. When a child moves into or no longer resides in your residential home, providers should complete the notification form (see appendix 1) and share with the local Enhanced Children in Care Health Team within a timely manner (48 hours) to ensure that there are no delays in securing access to health services
2. All staff respond appropriately and in a timely manner to all health concerns that are raised by the child/young person to ensure any required access to health provision
3. Ensure that all staff are aware and prioritise the time for supporting children to attend their statutory health assessment.
4. Ensure that they when supporting a child or young person to a health appointment that the young person is adequately informed and that they have all the relevant information in respect of consent to treatment, who has parental responsibility and their medical history.
5. Residential care providers to provide care following corporate parenting principles by acting in the role of a good parent and parenting in an appropriate way. This includes risk management and supervision of a child or young person as someone in a parenting role would be expected to provide.
 - Staff in residential settings should support the child to register with a GP and dentist locally and to access statutory health assessments and any medical appointments necessary to meet their identified health needs.
 - When a child or young person attends for an Initial or Review Health Assessment, they must be accompanied by a member of staff who has all the relevant background information to share with the paediatrician undertaking the health assessment.
 - The member of staff accompanying the young person must be aware of the importance of the health assessment and the significance sharing relevant information has in ensuring a meaningful and comprehensive assessment is undertaken.
6. If a young person does require an acute hospital admission or assessment for either their physical or emotional health needs, it would be expected that members of staff who have a trusted relationship continue to provide direct support to the child whilst they are in attendance/inpatient.
7. However, it is recognised that hospital paediatric wards may not be deemed to be a place of safety for children and young people who are experiencing emotional distress as a result of their previous trauma or adverse childhood experiences. This may further traumatize children as is not a suitable environment for meeting their emotional health needs.
8. Notify health services where the child has current or future input of any change of address so that timely transfer of care can be facilitated for the child and prevention of missed appointments that could be utilized for other children

CSC / Education Expectation

1. Statutory guidance states that:
 - Social workers, Virtual School Heads (VSHs), IROs, school admission officers, and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) departments should work together to ensure that, except in an emergency, appropriate education provision for a child is arranged at the same time as a care placement.
 - Children in our care, as defined in the School Admission Code, have the highest priority within all mainstream schools' admission arrangements. The admission requirements for looked-after children are set out in the School Admissions Code. This Code applies to maintained schools and academies, including free schools.
 - Fair Access Protocols do not apply to children in our care. In relation to infant class size regulations, they are 'excepted pupils' if they are admitted outside the normal admission round (see 2.15(b) of the School Admissions Code)
 - If social workers are unsure of how school admissions work in relation to children in our care, they should urgently discuss this with their VSH or someone else – e.g. the local authority's school admissions officer, who can provide the correct information. If the appropriate placement is at a mainstream academy or maintained school, the corporate parent must apply through the same process as other parents. Please note that the national closing dates for applications are 31st October for secondary schools, and 15th January for primary schools.
2. The VSH should ensure that there are effective arrangements in place to work with a range of professionals who will play a role in supporting the education of children in our care. Care staff should have high expectations in helping children in our care to achieve their full potential in education, whether this is in school or post-16 education, employment, and training.
3. Care staff are expected to attend PEP meetings, liaise with school, prepare the child in our care for the school day and ensure they attend.
4. Care staff are expected to support child in our care with homework and extra-curricular activities where appropriate.

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Virtual School can be contacted:

Blackpool: virtual.school@blackpool.gov.uk

Blackburn with Darwen: virtual.school@blackburn.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council: virtualschool@lancashire.gov.uk

Police Expectation

1. If the child is at risk of CSE or CCE or going missing, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary will require notifying of any and such risk prior to a child being accepted at placement.
2. The local authority in the county may need to arrange for their child to be discussed at the local CSE/CCE risk assessment multi-agency meeting. Police exploitation teams will inform any risk-assessment via input at multi-agency meetings.
3. Staff at the care home will demonstrate awareness of standard procedures in the event of going missing or risk escalation.
4. Staff at the care home will send any trigger plans or existing Philomena Protocol documents to the Missing person coordinator for the area who can then liaise with the care setting.

Contact details:


East BCU: East-MFHCO-ORDINATOR@lancashire.police.uk (BwD / East Lancashire)

South BCU: South-MFHCO-ORDINATOR@lancashire.police.uk (Preston / South Ribble / Chorley / West Lancashire)

West BCU: West-MFHCO-ORDINATOR@lancashire.police.uk (Blackpool / Fylde Coast / Lancaster / Morecambe/ Wyre)

Appendix 1 – Notification Form

The Notification Form should be completed by agency/authority/provider placing child out of area and by agency/authority/provider that is ending a placement or receiving a child.

<u>Notification of Placement Child Looked After</u>			
 <small>Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire</small>			
Child's Surname:		Child's Forename/s:	
AKA:		Gender:	
DOB:		Start Date in Care:	
NHS no if known:		UPN	
<u>Moving From</u>			
Care arrangements		Name and address of carer	
If 'other', please specify		Tel no:	
Describe the present care arrangements, including legal status		Are they currently on the child protection register?	
Present education setting		Present GP	
<u>Moving to</u>			
Start date of arrangement		Care Arrangements	
Name and address of carer		Tel no	
If 'other', please specify		Is this establishment/provider registered with Ofsted/CQC?	
Describe the new care arrangements, including legal status		What is the purpose and expected duration of this care placement?	
New GP		New education setting	
Risks	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Details and comments including specific needs / risks			
Reason for move:			
<u>Local Authority details</u>			
Placing Authority:			
Social worker name:		Team:	

Contact number:		Out of hours (EDT) details	
Email address:			
IRO Name:		Team:	
Contact number:			
Email address:			
Office Address:		Office number:	
Details of documents attached (i.e - details of support from placing authority, trigger plans etc.)			