

## **Secure Order Child and Young People Reviews**

This procedure applies to children placed in secure accommodation.

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### **1. Purpose of Secure Accommodation Reviews**

The Purpose of a Secure Accommodation Review is to consider the following:

- Whether the criteria for keeping a child in secure accommodation continue to apply, on the day of the review (see '**Placements in Secure Accommodation Procedures, Secure Accommodation Criteria**'); and
- Whether such a placement continues to be necessary; and
- Whether or not any other form of accommodation would be appropriate.

There are separate and different processes for reviewing a young person's case if they are remanded to secure accommodation by the courts or detained under the Mental Health Act.

### **2. Timing of Secure Accommodation Reviews**

Secure Accommodation Reviews must be convened within 28 working days of a child being placed in secure accommodation, and then held at intervals not exceeding 3 months.

Where it is determined by the social worker and their manager that a further application should be made to the Court to keep the child in secure accommodation beyond the expiry of the current Secure Accommodation Order, then the social worker must request that the Secure Accommodation Review Panel meets to consider the application.

### **3. Chairing of Secure Accommodation Reviews**

The Secure Accommodation Panel should be chaired by a person independent of the care planning for the child, including line managers and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). Given the need to focus on the Section 25, Children Act 1989 criteria issues, the chair should also be independent of any resource allocation, etc. but have sufficient experience and knowledge to carry out the task.

### **4. Secure Accommodation Review Panel**

The Secure Accommodation Panel is responsible for listening to the views of those who attend/contribute, and coming to a decision about whether they believe the criteria for secure accommodation are still met. The Panel cannot come to a decision about whether the child should remain or leave secure accommodation; it can only make a recommendation on this to the **Designated Manager (Secure Accommodation)**.

The Panel consists of at least 3 members: the Chairperson, a manager from a separate social work team who does not have case responsibility and an independent person who is currently provided by Voice.

An IRO may sit as one of the other two Panel members (not as part of the IRO function).

See [4.14 IRO Handbook](#)

The composition of the Panel should seek to be sensitive to issues that may be relevant to the child, e.g. ethnic background and gender.

### **5. Arranging a Secure Accommodation Review Panel**

Secure Accommodation Reviews will be convened in the same way as Looked After Reviews. Notification will be sent to the child's social worker, Panel members and the relevant secure unit. An agenda and criteria to be considered at the review will be sent. The S&QA Business Support arranges Secure Accommodation Review Panels.

The Review Panel will meet at the relevant secure unit.

The Secure Accommodation Review is separate to a Looked After Review and is not a substitute for it. It must be held first, so the recommendations and subsequent decisions made can inform the Looked After Review.

## 6. Preparation for Secure Accommodation Reviews

Prior to the Secure Accommodation Review, the social worker will ensure the following are undertaken:

- The SW will prepare a report for the SAR, which has been endorsed by their manager and incorporates the views of all those consulted about the placement (see **Placements in Secure Accommodation on Welfare Grounds, Consultation**), the **Children's Guardian** and the provider of the secure accommodation. The report must include an exit plan (see invite letter for guidance on SW report). The report must be sent to the Chair via S&QA BSU at least 5 working days before the SAR;
- Written invitations are sent to the parent and those with **Parental Responsibility**, and any other persons whose attendance is agreed – S&QA BSU;
- The child and parent(s) are clear about the purpose of the Secure Accommodation Review. The social worker should go through the contents of the Report and proposed **Care Plan** with them;
- The parents and child are given adequate support to prepare for the SAR, which may include arranging for an interpreter and/or advocate to assist them- SW;
- The secure unit is aware of the SAR date and arrangements have been made for the staff in the secure placement to prepare a report, taking account of the progress made with the child and stating their view as to whether the criteria for secure accommodation (see **Placements in Secure Accommodation on Welfare Grounds Procedure**) still apply and whether any other description of accommodation would be appropriate rather than remaining in secure accommodation – S&QA BSU.

## 7. Conducting the Secure Accommodation Review

**The Secure Accommodation Review**, and the Panel's members, must focus on the questions and issues around the criteria for secure accommodation within the context of the child's specific circumstances.

In considering these matters, the Panel must have regard to the child's welfare.

Nevertheless, the Secure Accommodation Review does not take the place of a **Looked After Review**; it is distinctly different. The CLA Review may, however, take place immediately after the SAR.

In all cases, the outcome of the Secure Accommodation Review must be reported to the Looked After Review.

The independent Panel member should see the young person before the Secure Accommodation Review.

The Secure Accommodation Review must be formally minuted.

The Secure Accommodation Review Panel will consider the social worker's report, the notes and decisions of the most recent Looked After Review and the views of the following:

- The child, the parent(s) and those with Parental Responsibility;
- The child's social worker and manager;
- Those who previously have had or may have care of the child upon discharge;
- The **Children's Guardian**;
- The child's **Independent Visitor** and/or advocate (if one has been appointed);
- The Link/Keyworker for the child from the Secure Unit together with other services provided by the Secure Accommodation, e.g. Education and Health and feedback with regard to the young person's mobility plan;
- Any specialist assessments that may have been commissioned e.g. psychological;
- The local authority managing the secure accommodation in which the child is placed if different to the Placing Authority.

The Review Panel is responsible for listening to the views of those who contribute, and coming to a decision about whether they believe the criteria for secure accommodation are met. The Review Panel may also make additional recommendations with suggested timescales (see **Placements in Secure Accommodation on Welfare Grounds Procedure**).

It is not sufficient, simply, to retain a child in secure accommodation to complete an assessment or treatment programme or whilst other accommodation is sought. Regard must be given to the fact that it is unlawful for the liberty of a child to be restricted unless the criteria are met, no matter how short the period of security.

Once the Panel has made a recommendation as to the child's continued placement in secure accommodation, it should be communicated to the young person and other participants at the SAR. The recommendation may be accompanied by other recommendations on related issues, for example as to mobility and visiting arrangements.

Where relevant, a date for the next Review Panel should also be fixed. The next SAR must be within 3 months.

Minutes will be prepared and sent to all those in attendance within 5 working days of the SAR.

## **8. After the Secure Accommodation Review**

The Chair of the Panel will meet with the child to inform him/her of the Panel decision and the reason for reaching that decision: the Chair will also inform the child of any additional recommendations which the Panel has made. After informing the child of the decision and any recommendations, the chair will inform the members of the review and close the meeting.

The chair of the Panel will arrange for the case accountable Assistant Director to be notified in writing of the review decision and recommendations (if any) as soon as is practicable.

The IRO should be advised of the outcome of the Secure Accommodation Review.

The minutes of the Secure Accommodation Review should be completed as soon as possible and within 1 month of the Secure Accommodation review. They should detail the reasoning behind the decision.

It should be borne in mind that the Agency Decision Maker, the Children's Guardian and /or the court may need to have the minutes as evidence for decision - making.

If the Panel concludes that the criteria for restricted liberty no longer apply, the placement is no longer necessary or another type of placement would be more appropriate, the local authority must immediately review the child's placement. (*4.14 IRO Handbook*) and effect the 'exit' or contingency plan.