

16 / 17 Years Olds – Ceasing To Be Cared For – Section 20

A Cared For Review must be arranged when considering ending Section 20 for all 16/17 year olds.

A Regulation 39 Checklist Two (16 & 17 Year Olds) must be completed when assessing the appropriateness of ending Section 20 – Checklist Two guides social workers through the assessment, planning and decision-making process and provides a set of questions and prompts for the social worker and a recommendations section (for final approval by the Director of Children’s Services)

Pre- meeting report is sent to TM and they must record their recommendation alongside the Social Workers in the comments box.

CLA review – discuss the Regulation 39 Checklist Two Recommendations

IRO to record in the outcomes (within 5 working days) and their recommendation about the decision to cease the cared for and section 20

Social Worker needs to update the Pathway Plan to reflect the changes and send this to their Team Manager for authorisation.

Service Manager to review the Pathway Plan and put in management oversight case note whether they endorse the ending of the Section 20 period. If endorsed the service manager will forward the completed Regulation 39 Checklist Two to the Director of Children’s Services via email to endorse the decision or approve next steps (documents to be sent):

- Regulation 39 Checklist
- IRO Decision
- Updated Pathway Plan

The Director reads the above documents and inputs their management decision within a management oversight/decision case note on the young person LCS file.

This will be standardised recording, the reason for contact will always record: “Director Authorisation for ceasing to be Section 20 at age 16 or 17”. The Directors rationale for the decision will then be entered within the details box of the case note (and the Regulation 39 Checklist two).

Once the Director has made the decision and this noted on child's file, a case note alert will appear in Social Worker's tray – only when this has occurred can the current episode of Care be ended.



NB* Please note most young people after they cease to be cared for will become "Relevant" Children under the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and will require a Pathway Plan which should be in place at the latest by the time the Young person is 16 years & 3 months.