

LEAVING CARE STATUTORY VISITS - GUIDANCE

1. REMIT OF THE GUIDANCE

This procedure relates to statutory requirements for young people who are:

- a. Aged 15 ½ and have an involved pathway adviser
- b. All young people age 18 and over
- c. Age over 25 and have accessed support as is their right under the local offer

2. PURPOSE OF VISITS

The purpose of a statutory visit is to ensure that young people are supported to prepare for independent living, have the skills they need and can manage living on their own. It is an opportunity to formally gather and record the views of the young person regarding their pathway plan and any support they may need.

The outcomes of the visit should:

- a. Ensure that arrangements for the young person's education, employment and training, health, emotional needs, identity, self-care skills and contact with family are proceeding smoothly.
- b. Support the young in understanding what is happening in their life and to make emotional adjustments.
- c. Support the young person to develop the skills for independence and have the right identity documents in place
- d. To support the young person to identify accommodation and access benefits
- e. Provide a degree of safeguarding by being someone the young person can talk to and share any worries they may have.
- f. Make ongoing assessment in order to contribute to the review of the Pathway Plan.
- g. Form a relationship with the young person.

3. FREQUENCY

Statutory visits must be undertaken for young people age 15 ½ to 18 by their allocated personal adviser in addition to statutory visits undertaken by their social worker. Personal advisers should visit at least every 3 months from 15 ½ until 17 and then every 8 weeks after that. Post 18 visits will be every 8 weeks or more frequently if young people request this or are struggling to manage

Statutory visits should take place at the above minimum frequency and the Statutory Visiting template must be completed.

CONDUCTING THE VISIT

- a. The visit should consider the young person's education, employment and training, health, emotional needs, identity, self-care skills and contact with family are proceeding smoothly.
- b. The young person must have the opportunity to speak to their personal adviser alone.
- c. Observation should be made of how the young person is managing
- d. The carer should be spoken to separately to gain their view where young person is under 18.
- e. Joint visiting to be undertaken with the Social Worker and personal adviser at regular intervals until the young person is 18.
- f. Information on health needs to be recorded on ICS under the health tab
- g. Information on educational attainments, exams etc. training and employment needs to be recorded on the ICS education tab
- h. Passport, driving license and NI numbers should be recorded on ICS

4. GUIDANCE: COMPLETING THE TEMPLATE

Overview of the visit

This section can be free flowing but should contain details of the following areas:-

- Who was present at the visit and relationship to the young person
- Observations of how the young person interacts with their care givers (under 18) and their views
- Details of how the young person is managing with independent living
- Review of the actions from the pathway plan and progress made
- Views of the young person which should be clearly recorded in bold and italic
- Significant events since the last visit
- Any direct work being undertaken and progress of the work, the case note must include an analysis of the work and the direct work must be uploaded to ICS in the document section

Analysis

- This should contain the three Signs of Safety analysis categories: what's working well, what are we worried about and what needs to change
- Should consider the young person's education, employment and training, health, emotional needs, identity, self-care skills and contact with family
- The record must not be brief bullet point lists of issues, but needs to contain a narrative and analysis of the issues discussed

Recording visit

Statutory visits must be recorded on ICS within 48 hours and sent to the Manager to authorise.

Statutory visit template

Ensure that the boxes are ticked as to whether the young person has been seen, seen alone.

Overview – The following areas need to be included:

- Who was present at the visit and relationship to the young person
- Observations of how the young person interacts with their care givers
- How the placement is progressing and views of care giver where relevant
- Views of the care giver
- Observation of how the young person is managing and support needed
- The views of the young person which should be clearly recorded in bold and italic
- Significant events since the last visit
- Any direct work being undertaken and progress

Analysis

What's working well

What are we worried about

- Should consider the young person's education, employment and training, health, emotional needs, identity, self-care skills and contact with family
- The record must not be brief bullet point lists of issues, but needs to contain a narrative and analysis of the issues discussed
- Focus on the issues where there is a need

Danger/worry statement

- Can include up to 3 danger/worry statements which remain in place and are reviewed to see if progress has been made. These will end when concern has been reduced which is measured through the scaling

Safety goal/success goal

- For every danger/worry statement there should be a safety/success goal

Scaling

- For every danger/worry statement and safety/success goal there should be a scaling question
- Scaling should be undertaken at each visit but can be creative in how you do this – direct work, drawing, games etc.

What needs to happen

- Should consider the young person's education, employment and training, health, emotional needs, identity, self-care skills and contact with family
- The record must not be brief bullet point lists of issues, but needs to contain a narrative and analysis of the issues discussed
- Focus on the issues where there is a need

Changes to pathway plan

Note any changes to the pathway plan

Record date of next statutory visit