

Sunderland Information Request / Placement Notification Framework

- 1) Information required when a placing authority is notifying Sunderland of a placement of a child looked after into the area.
- 2) Information required from a placing authority where they are seeking information in consideration of placing a child looked after in to the Sunderland area.
- 3) Information to be provided where Sunderland is placing a child looked after out of the Sunderland area
- 4) Information to be requested where Sunderland is considering placing a child looked after out of the Sunderland area.

The aim of this checklist is to provide a template for the exchange of information where a child looked after is placed in Sunderland and where a placing authority is requesting information about services and support available in the Sunderland area. The checklist should also be used as the basis for notifying a local authority of a placement of Sunderland child looked after or as the basis of a request about services support available in a specific area where Sunderland is considering placing a child looked after.

The checklist has been developed to comply with Regulation 13 (Notification of a Child Looked After placed in an area) and Annex A (Suggested information for discussion between authorities when planning distant placements – Page 175/176). Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and Guidance 2010 – Updated and Revised 2015.

Basic Information about the Child

- Name and date of birth.
- Legal status (subject of a care order (s.31 Children Act); voluntarily accommodated (s.20) remanded (s. 21).
- Number of previous placements – outline reasons for child leaving earlier placements.

Plans for the Child's Care

- Details of the assessment of the child's needs, with information about the child's wishes and feelings, with reasons the planned placement is suitable.

- Duration of placement (emergency/short-term/long-term/permanent). If it is not possible to assess the intended duration of placement – reasons for this and when this information will be available.
- Arrangements for contact.
- Details of who will be responsible for implementing plans for the child's day to day care (the 'placement plan') including details of arrangements for delegating responsibilities to the child's carer(s).
- Details of any plans to offer the child care leaving support (as an 'eligible child') during the anticipated duration of the placement.
- Details of any plans to meet any disability, mental health need, special education need (does the child have an Education, Health and Care Plan, does the child currently attend a maintained school).
- Details of any plans to meet any specific risk management, child sexual exploitation, missing episode needs.
- Contingency arrangements if the plan to support the child in the current placement does not succeed.

Services to Support the Child

- Details of plans to meet the child's educational needs – information about the school the child is expected to attend; details of plans for supporting the child if a school has not been identified.
- Information about plans to meet the child's health needs, e.g. whether the child requires secondary health care (including mental health and other specialist health care), including details about the CCG acting as "responsible commissioner.
- Details of any youth justice supervision order that would need to be overseen by youth justice services in the area authority.

Advice and Guidance from Sunderland Staff

Set out below the information and guidance provided by Sunderland staff in response to the request for advice about the viability of a placement into the Sunderland area:

When approached for consultation about potential placements, area authorities (Sunderland) should be able to offer a professional view about the benefits of a planned placement, the benefits of living in the neighbourhood where the placement is located and the potential for local services to respond appropriately to the needs of the child concerned.

Advice regarding the variability of a placement in Sunderland can only be based on the information supplied by the area authority considering a placement into the area. A full assessment and disclosure of the needs of the child is required in regarding to gauging the viability of a placement into Sunderland. In addition, the area authority considering a placement into the Sunderland area will have identified a provisional placement and geographical area. Without a potentially identified placement and geographical area, a full evaluation of the viability of a placement would not be possible.

Has the area authority seeking a placement contacted/had discussions with representatives of the Education Department or Virtual School, NHS, Commissioning?

Advice & Guidance Provided:

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