

Appendix B

Secure Accommodation Criteria Meeting

Agenda

1. Introductions/Apologies

2. Child/Young Persons Details

3. Reason for Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to consider whether the criteria are met for a Secure Accommodation Order;

Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the 'welfare' criteria which must be met before a Looked After child may be placed in secure accommodation. The 'welfare' criteria:

- The child has a history of absconding and is likely to abscond from any other description of accommodation; and*
- If the child absconds, (s)he is likely to suffer Significant Harm; or*
- If the child is kept in any other description of accommodation (s)he is likely to injure her/himself or others.*

4. What are we worried about? (Risks)

5. What is going well? (Strengths/Protective Factors)

6. Additional Issues to consider (e.g. historical or complicating issues)

7. View of child/young person

8. View of parents with PR/family members/carers

9. Legal Advice

10. Discussion

The Agency Decision Maker (Deputy Chief Officer for Childrens Service, Head of Social Work and Child Protection) will only approve a request to place a child in secure accommodation where the following have been considered in a Secure Criteria Meeting:

- The Criteria for Secure Placements is met*
- Secure accommodation is the only appropriate method of dealing with the child;*
- Alternatives have been comprehensively considered and rejected;*
- There is a clear view of the aims and objectives of such a placement.*

11. Recommendation

12. Plan (to include exit/step down plan)

13. Contingency Plan