**Practice Guidance and Links for Placing a Child in an Out of Authority Placement - (OOA ) - March 2019**

South Glos recognises that Looked After Children should be supported to remain in placements within their local area wherever is practicable to do so, in order that the connections they have with family, friends, communities and activities can be maintained and strengthened over time. Sometimes due to complicating factors, resources or Safeguarding issues, this is not possible. In order to ensure that these children and young people are not doubly disadvantaged the following Statutory Guidance must be applied.

*Out of Area Placement of Looked After Children – Supplement to the Children Act 1989 Vol 2 : Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Guidance – July 2014*. -

<https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/20643/1/Out_of_authority_placement_of_looked-after_children.pdf>

In 2014 the Care Planning Regulations were amended to address specific issues for Children and Young People who were placed in Out Of Authority arrangements

1. Regulation 11 (1a or b) places a Duty on the Corporate Parenting Manager or Director of Children’s Services, to approve any placement outside of the Local Authority unless it is a placement with a parent or connected person. It is the responsibility of the child’s Social Worker, to complete the Consent and Approval Document as linked below, -

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/Out%20of%20County%20Placement%20request.docx>.

1. The child’s named Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) must be consulted before
any final decision is made about making an out of authority placement, whether distant or not. The IRO will discuss the proposed arrangements with the child.
2. The views of the child and their family must be gathered by the Childs SW, and considered when making final decisions about placements outside of the Local Authority.
3. A completed Risk Assessment must accompany the Consent and Approval Form – Link :

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/Risk%20Assessment%20Template%20Final%20Version.doc>

1. Regulation 11 (2dii) requires the placing Local Authority (South Glos) to consult with the host authority about the appropriateness of the placement, and if there are any concerns regarding the making of such a placement given the young person’s needs. In South Glos this is the responsibility of the Childs SW who has working knowledge of the child’s needs and experiences.

The following Appendix is recommended as a guide for Inter Authority Discussions - <http://southgloscs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_out_area_place.html#app_1>

1. When making a judgement about the suitability of an Out of Authority Placement, South Glos must ascertain and assess the arrangements and provisions for health care and education. Consultation is required with the Head of the Virtual School and Looked After Nurse, and CAMHS if appropriate.
2. Regulation 13 places a duty on placing Local Authorities to notify all relevant services about the proposed placement. Wherever possible this should occur prior to the placement taking place, if this is not possible then within 5 working days.

Notification to other Services and the host LA should include the provision of the Childs Assessment, Care Plan and Risk Assessment.

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/OOC%20Placement%20Form%20-%20Blank%20Master%20Copy.doc>

All decisions and actions in relation to consideration for the placement and making the placement happen must be recorded on the child’s record. This provides accountability and enables scrutiny into the robustness and consistency of our decision making process. As well as demonstrates to the child, should they wish to access their file in the future, the rationale as to why specific actions took place at a specific time in their lives.

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