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| **C:\Users\Jonathan001\Pictures\thOJWS1SGE.jpg**  **Placement and Resource Panel**  **Terms of Reference**  **Reviewed May 2023** | |
| **1** | **Purpose of the Panel** |
| 1.1 | Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council must ensure that there is sufficient accommodation of all types for children in care and meet its sufficiency duty as laid down in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989. The Act requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority’s area, which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority’s area (‘the sufficiency duty’). The statutory guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children 2010 clearly sets out the local authority’s responsibilities. |
| 1.2 | The Placement and Resource Panel provides overview and scrutiny to placements of children in care across in-house fostering placements, independent fostering placements (IFA), residential and semi-independent placements. The panel will focus on those children and young people who are in care or are care leavers. |
| 1.3 | The panel will directly feed into the work being carried out under the Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2025 and use insight to inform future strategies in relation to our care population. |
| 1.4 | Further guidance regarding children’s placements can be found within the Barnsley Children’s Social Care Online Procedures - Section 4 Children in Care  <https://www.proceduresonline.com/barnsley/cs/search_site.php?zoom_sort=0&zoom_query=placements+&zoom_per_page=10&zoom_and=0> |
| **2** | **Key Objectives of the Panel** |
| 2.1 | The Panel will consider and review requests for multi-agency packages of support and care for children living in external placements which make sure that, as far as possible, our children are looked after, and their current and future needs are reflected in the arrangements between the commissioned providers and us as the corporate parent for our children.  This includes:   * Purchased fostering (IFA) with a focus on IFA placements that are purchased on a solo or enhanced basis, * Residential placements * Semi Independent Placements * Oversee the ratification of emergency placements   The panel will review and consider requests to maintain/adjust multi-agency packages of support and care with the aim to limit placement disruptions and make sure our children’s futures have been considered, planning for with our commissioned providers.  The panel will also ratify and review plans for our young people as they move from regulated settings and adjust to living arrangements where they become more responsible for their future. This could be from an internal or external placement.  The panel will also review financial requests for:   * Applications for Special Guardianship, Child Arrangement and Adoption Order allowances * Consider referrals to CRAG for joint funding if appropriate |
| **3** | **Key Actions of the Panel** |
| 3.1 | The panel will ensure that all placements are ratified to:   1. Ensure there is a clear decision-making trail and financial accountability in place 2. Ensure that all placement searches and consent to place have the appropriate senior management approval, including for those children and young people that are placed out of borough and at a distance 3. Monitor on a rotational basis all children who have been placed with external placement providers/out of authority/at a distance to ensure that, where appropriate, clear plans remain in the best interests of the young person 4. Ensure that all children are reviewed at a minimum of a 6 monthly basis or more frequently in accordance with need 5. Ensure through the Virtual School Weekly Monitoring Briefing Sheet that all educational requirements for children in care are taken into account 6. Ensure that, where appropriate, criminal justice involvement is considered 7. Clarify if the request needs to be considered for multi-agency funding at CRAG 8. Consider referral to Directions Panel for young people aged 15 years and 6 months 9. Monitor previously agreed arrangements for multi-agency funding to ensure further CRAG presentation is done in a timely manner 10. Monitor all children in care to ensure appropriate transition accommodation arrangements are in place for their 18th Birthday |
| 3.2 | A business support offer will minute a record of the discussion and agreed actions which will be placed on the child’s file. |
| **4** | **Accountability & Governance** |
| 4.1 | The Panel will be chaired by the Head of Service, Children in Care. |
| **5** | **Membership** |
| 5.1 | The Panel will comprise of the following:   * Head of Service, Children in Care * Service Manager, Children in Care * Service Manager, Fostering * Service Manager, Safeguarding and Family Services (CYPT / DCT) * Head of Service, Commissioning * Lead Commissioning Officer for Children in Care * Placement Team Manager * Financial Analyst, Financial Services * Virtual School Head * Service Manager – IRO service * Named Nurse for Children in Care * Operational Manager, Youth Justice Service, when updates are required * Business Support Officer |
| 5.2 | Team managers and social workers will be invited to attend for a case discussion as required and as agreed at the setting of the agenda.  The social worker is required to complete a case overview update form in advance for each child or young person being discussed, which is quality assured by the Team Manager and submitted 3 days (Monday 4pm noon) prior to panel for distribution to panel members. These are to be saved by the Social Worker / Team Manager in the BU3 Sharepoint for Placement and Resource Panel with agenda / minutes / cases folders [​Folder icon Placement and Resource Panel](https://barnsleycouncil.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/ChildSCS/Files/Children%20and%20Learning/Placement%20Team/Placement%20Panels/Placement%20and%20Resource%20Panel?csf=1&web=1&e=a9S1fy). |
| **6** | **Frequency of Panel** |
| 6.1 | The Panel will meet every week on a Thursday, 13:00 to 15:00 |
| **7** | **Structure/Process of Panel** |
| 7.1 | The Panel will have a rolling agenda that will consist of   1. New entries/emergencies/placement moves 2. External residential placements 3. IFA placements where not long term matched or solo or enhanced funded 4. Semi supported living arrangements 5. UASC 6. Review of all 15, 16 and 17 year old young people in relation to care planning regarding transition to adulthood 7. Financial allowance requests/additional resource requests |
| 7.2 | Financial Allowances/Applications Authorisation  Placement and Resource Panel financial request forms can be located on Mosaic. Each form needs to be completed by the social worker and authorised by an appropriate team and service manager.  The Service Manager will then forward the authorised request to [PSORPPaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:PSORPPaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk).  Each request will then be added to the next agenda for panel, to begin an assessment for:   1. Child Arrangement Order allowances 2. Special Guardianship Order allowances 3. Adoption allowances (these would normally be proposed at the point of the SHODPA but should then be ratified by the Resource Panel and endorsed at the Matching Panel |
| 7.3 | If a request is approved at panel, the HoS will record this decision, which will be added to the child’s records by Business Support. The HoS will email the outcomes to the Finance Department (currently [MarkThorpe@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:MarkThorpe@barnsley.gov.uk)), the relevant social worker and [PSORPpaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:PSORPpaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk) |
| 7.4 | In such circumstances that a request is not approved (the outcomes that are sent to the Finance Department should have the social worker copied in for their information) the social worker may be asked to either submit the additional information that is required for future consideration of the request and/or attend panel if necessary. |
| 7.6 | Placement Requests/Additional Resource Requests  Placement and Resource Panel will receive confirmation of all completed placement referral requests for placements via [ChildrensPlacements@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensPlacements@barnsley.gov.uk) (including retrospective emergency requests) under the following circumstances:   1. Change of placement through placement breakdown 2. All direct external placement requests 3. All external placement requests due to in-house unavailability 4. Placement required from custody, sentence, remand and welfare 5. High cost additional resource/funding requests |
| 7.7 | For the afore mentioned placement referrals, Placement and Support panel will:   1. Approve any additional supports 2. Confirm if an additional Children and Young People Assessment is required to support the placement referral 3. Allocate specific actions to support the placement request as required 4. Make recommendations for multi-agency funding |
| 7.8 | Virtual School Member Attendance  A member of the Virtual School will attend panel on a weekly basis to present the Virtual School Weekly Monitoring Briefing Sheet to ensure joint service planning.  The Briefing sheet includes:   * Children with attendance below 90%(PA), * Children at risk of PA (Attendance between 90-93%), * Exclusions monitoring * Children on partial timetables, * PEPs * Children now returned to full timetable * Possible school moves * School moves as a result of a change in placement   Placement and Resource Panel members will support the Virtual School in ensuring the appropriate professionals are linked with the school to ensure that issues of potential exclusion or non-attendance can be resolved. |
| 7.9 | YJS Member Attendance  The Operation Manager of the Youth Justice Service will attend panel as and when necessary to share knowledge and information and to ensure joint service planning including:   * Where a young person being considered for a placement is currently in custody * Where planning is taking place to provide an alternative to a remand placement |
| 7.10 | Information will also be shared which may impact on the current or future placement plans:   * Where a young person is subject to an out of court disposal, court order or subject to police or court bail * Where a young person, in care, has been subject to diversion interventions or alternatives to prosecution * Where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour * Where there are concerns about criminal justice involvement or risk of criminal justice involvement * Where a placement is at risk due to criminal or anti-social behaviour * Where there is multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) involvement |
|  | (End) |