

Title/Status-	Guidance
New document or revised	New
Date legal review	Nov 21
Date approved SMT	Nov 21
Responsible Head of Service	Children in care
Date next review due	September 2024

Placement Plan Guidance

Introduction:

It is a statutory requirement under The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, that every Looked After Child has a placement plan which sets out in detail how the current placement will contribute to meeting their needs as set out in the Care Plan.

Before making a placement, it is essential that the local authority fully understands the services the placement will offer, and how the provider intends to care for the child. This understanding should inform the child's Placement Plan, which should be drawn up in conjunction with the placement. Placement Plans must be agreed with the child and their carers, and are likely to be most effective when drawn up at the Placement Planning Meeting which involves everyone concerned in the care of the child.

The Placement Plan is concerned both with both how the placement will meet the aims of the Care Plan and contributes to achieving the Permanence Plan, as well as covering how the child's needs will be met on a day to day basis. Placement plans should highlight the strengths as well as the difficulties.

A placement plan should be informed by the care plan, and as with the care plan should ideally be drawn up before a child starts to be looked after. An effective placement plan will ensure that the carer has information about the child including their health, education, emotional and behavioural needs, the child's likes and dislikes, routines and how these all affect the child on a day to day basis. If previous placements have broken down then information should be included in the placement plan as to what led to the placement breakdown (e.g. was there unacceptable behaviour).

Placement plans are different to care plans in that they provide information about how the day to day parenting tasks will be shared between the parent and the carer.

The Placement Plan should cover the following issues:

- Objectives and purpose of the placement;
- How the child will be cared for on a day to day basis, including how their welfare will be safeguarded and promoted;
- The child's likes/dislikes;
- Arrangements for contact between the child and parents/anyone with Parental Responsibility/any other connected person, including, if appropriate, reasons why contact is not reasonably practicable or not consistent with the child's welfare; details of any

Contact Order (under Section 8 or 34 of the Children Act 1989); the arrangements for notifying any changes in contact arrangements;

- Arrangements for promoting the child's health (physical, emotional and mental), dental and optical care, including the name and address of registered medical and dental practitioners and opticians; arrangements for giving/withholding consent to medical/dental examination/treatment;
- Arrangements for the child's education and training, including the name and address of the child's school/other educational institution/provider and designated teacher; the local authority maintaining any Education, Health and Care Plan;
- Who has delegated authority to agree school trips
- Leisure activities and home life;
- Who has the authority to take particular decisions about the child, including reasons for any day to day decision making which is not delegated to the carers;
- The arrangements for and frequency of visits by the child's social worker; and for advice, support and assistance between visits (including from an Independent Visitor of Advocate);
- If an Independent Visitor is appointed, the arrangements for them to visit the child, including the frequency of visits;
- The name and contact details of the Independent Reviewing Officer, the Independent Visitor if one is appointed, the social worker who will be visiting the child, and the Personal Adviser for an Eligible Young Person;
- The type of accommodation to be provided and the address;
- Use of social media;
- Where the authority has, or is notified of, safeguarding or child protection concerns relating to the child, or the child has gone missing from the placement or from any previous placement, the day to day arrangements to be put in place by the appropriate person to keep the child safe;
- Any behaviours which have been of concern to previous carers and which may have contributed to previous breakdown of a placement and details of how the Placement will seek to manage and respond to these;
- The Placement Plan may incorporate a detailed Behaviour Management Plan for some children.
- Details in relation to the child's personal history, religious persuasion, gender identity, cultural and linguistic background and ethnicity;
- Faith and religious observance;
- The local authority's arrangements for the financial support of the child during the placement.
- Any other matters which the local authority/person with Parental Responsibility consider appropriate.

Timescales for completion of and reviews of Placement Plans:

This is a document that must be completed either before or within five days of a placement being made. This plan is drawn up by the child/young person's social worker, the placement, Supervision Social Workers, the child (where appropriate) and family members.

The Looked After Review should consider whether care is being provided in line with the agreed Placement Plan and whether this continues to be the most appropriate placement for the child.

A new Placement Plan should be completed for any placement move, including a child being placed in a adoptive placement.

In respect of emergency placements, the Social Worker has five days to complete the Placement Plan. In the circumstances where the young person has moved placements several times within the five days, the Placement Plan is to be completed in respect of the most recent placement within that timeframe and management oversight should be put on the file to evidence why there has not been a placement plan for each emergency placement. Upon a more stable placement being identified, a further Placement Plan is to be completed and created from the Placement Planning Meeting.

Actions:

No.	Action	Person responsible	Timescale
1.	Placement plan to be completed, to include signed consent to placement and signed consent to medical treatment for the child by parents.	Social worker	Prior to placement if planned, or within five working days of placement being made.
2.	A new placement plan to be drawn up and signed for every new placement.	Social worker	Within five working days of placement being made (or beforehand if placement move is planned).
3.	Placement plan completed and authorised by manager.	Social worker and line manager	Within five working days of placement being made.
4.	Copy of placement plan to be provided to carer or manager of the residential unit.	Social worker	Within two days of placement plan being approved.
5.	Placement plan to be shared with the child in a manner appropriate to their age and understanding.	Social worker	Within two days of placement plan being approved.
6.	Copy of placement plan to be provided to the parents and those with parental responsibility, unless there are exceptional circumstances where this should not happen in order to keep the child safe.	Social worker	Within two days of placement plan being approved.
7.	The Looked After Review should consider whether care is being provided in line with the agreed Placement Plan and whether	IRO	During statutory Looked After Child's Reviews.

	this continues to be the most appropriate placement for the child.		
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