

Title/Status-	Unregulated & Crisis Placement process
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Leicestershire Procedure for Unregulated Crisis Placement Process Applies to Looked after Children

Unregulated and Crisis Placement Process

Some residential establishments are not required to register with Ofsted because they do not meet the legal definition of a children's home. These are sometimes known as 'unregulated settings'.

The various types of unregulated settings are set out below –

- 1) A service where the short-term accommodation is not premises based, even if they are providing care and accommodation which broadly speaking can be divided into the following 2 categories-
 - (i) A mobile setting such as a barge, boat, touring caravan, camper van and tent; or
 - (ii) Premises which are rented at short notice by a provider, such as a holiday cottage, static caravan, bunk barn, bothies and lodges where the provider has entered into a short-term letting arrangement.

This type of placements in practice are intensive adventurous activity-based/outward bound provision and must be attached to a registered provision. The duration of the placement will vary and is usually set by the provider.

****Please note any provision of this type that is not attached to a registered children's home is illegal and will not be used***

- 2) Supported accommodation for young people aged over 16. This type of accommodation is to assist young people as they transition into independent living. The level of care usually reduces overtime and does not include the provision of meals, medication and personal care. Young people in the placement are free to come and go as they wish. Staff maybe present for parts of the day and even overnight for security reasons but are not providing direct care.

Any other type of service which does not fit into the definitions at 1 and 2 above will be deemed to be a children’s home providing care and accommodation to the child. As such they must be registered by Ofsted. Failure to do so results in the placement being unregistered and therefore illegal. It is the departments policy that under no circumstances will we place in an unregistered setting due to its illegal status (this includes where the provider is stating that they intend to apply for registration - they may even provide documentary evidence of this) as it is still illegal to provide care and accommodation to a child aged under 16 in a static setting pending the outcome of a registration application.

Foster carer’s do not come under the definition of a residential establishment. Therefore, consideration as to whether a foster placement is unregulated or unregistered is irrelevant for this guidance although such a placement maybe considered in a crisis placement situation.

Placement Process	
Step 1	Where a placement request for provision has been unable to identify a suitable ‘registered residential care option and the Young Person is 16 or over the PCT can request agreement via HOS to search the market for unregulated / Crisis Placement options that may be able to suitably meet the needs of the placement request.
Step 2	Any options received from providers who offer unregulated / Crisis Placement’s must complete a ‘Getting to Know Me Gateway – Placement Option Response Form’ (as per appendix A)
Step 3	A minimum of 2 references will be requested via the ‘Reference request form’ (as per appendix B) and must be attached by the placement team to the ‘Getting to Know Me Gateway – Placement Option Response Form’ for matching consideration of placement
Step 4	If CSW feels that the option is a match, further agreement must be obtained via the HOS from the AD. This will allow for further scrutiny of the suitability of the placement and that it is deemed as <u>unregulated</u> and not <u>unregistered</u> in line with Ofsted guidance. Legal advice from the Authorities Head of Law for social care and safeguarding should be sought where reasonably practicable.

Step 5	If it is agreed to proceed with the placement option an 'Unregulated and Crisis Placement Quality Assurance Visit' (as per appendix C) should take place before the placement starts or if this is not reasonably practicable no later than 7 days after the start of the placement.
Step 6	If any concerns are raised from the 'Unregulated and Crisis Placement Quality Assurance Visit' these will be shared with all relevant parties immediately after the visit has taken place. The report will be finalised and shared within 7 working days.
Step 7	Placement Commissioning Team will review the placement monthly and will obtain information from the CSW and the IRO (if appropriate/relevant) around how the placement is meeting the needs of the YP's and highlight any concerns if they arise.
Step 8	The monthly review of the placement will be shared with the HOS and AD for ongoing agreement for the placement to continue.



OFSTED definition
Annex C – unregula

Appendix A



G2R - Resource
Request Response.c

Appendix B



Reference Request
Form (2).docx

Appendix C



Quality Assurance
visit report for unre