



Date: June 2019

Ref: OOA/LAC/NS

Contact: Narinder Saggu, Commissioning Team, Birmingham Children's Trust
Phone 0121 675 3320 Email: Narinder.saggu@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

For the attention of the Director of Children's Services

Re: Services Available to Looked After Children Placed in Birmingham by Other Local Authorities

Birmingham Children's Trust, would like to notify you of the services and facilities available to looked after children and young people who may be placed in our city by other local authorities, including those children placed for adoption. Within this letter we set out the process to notify us when a looked after child or young person is placed in Birmingham, or when their placement arrangements change. We also include information about our virtual school for looked after children (LACES).

Please disseminate this information to relevant professionals within your Children's Social Care service to help them understand the diverse universal services that children residing in Birmingham can access. It would also be helpful if you could pass this letter on to any of your foster carers based in Birmingham so that they too are aware of the services available.

It would be useful to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to children placed by Birmingham in your Local Authority area.

We hope this information proves to be a helpful resource for colleagues from outside Birmingham who are working with looked after children placed here, and we welcome any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Turnross

Director of Practice

Birmingham Children's Trust

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1. Consultation

In accordance with the 2014 amendments to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, if you are planning on placing a child or young person in Birmingham from another Local Authority which is 'at a distance' (i.e. not adjacent to Birmingham) you should consult with us. Please direct this consultation and an up to date Care Plan for the child to:

centralrequests@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.

Once a decision is made to place the child in Birmingham, notification of the details should be sent to the following secure email account:

safeguardingcentral@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Please also use safeguardingcentral@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk to advise us of a change of address within Birmingham or when a placement ends in Birmingham.

2. Notifications

Notifications must include:

- Full name of child and date of birth.
- Whether the child is accommodated under Section 20 or subject to a Care Order or Supervision Order.
- Contact details for:
 - The Child's Placing Authority; and
 - The Child's Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Whether the child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) or Special Educational Needs and, if so, details of the Local Authority which maintains the EHC Plan.
- Any particular risks or vulnerabilities to assist the Professional Network in Birmingham.

For general enquiries and to report safeguarding concerns to Birmingham Children's Services please contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

MASH is available Monday to Thursday from 08.45 am – 17.15 pm and on Fridays from 08.45 am – 16.15 pm. Their contact details are:

Phone: **0121 303 1888**

Email: cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

For emergencies outside the office hours shown above, please call the Emergency Duty Team on **0121 675 4806**.



2.1 Child Advice and Support Service (CASS)

CASS is our front-door for all requests for support, contacts, referrals and queries. CASS includes within it our MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub). CASS also offers a consultation service for professionals to discuss concerns prior to making a referral.

Additionally, MASH co-ordinates multi-agency triage and information sharing in relation to missing children, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

CASS receives all contacts and notifications where there are concerns about a child's development or need for protection from abuse or neglect. Once it is determined an assessment is needed the matter is passed to our local Family Support (Early Help) Team or the area Assessment and Short-Term Intervention (ASTI) Team.

2.2 Assessment and Short Term Intervention Teams (ASTIs)

ASTI can, if needed, assist with the welfare and safety of children who are visiting Birmingham temporarily and are the subject of another Local Authority's Child Protection Plan (when requested by that Local Authority). The ASTI Teams receive referrals that require assessment and possible support and intervention, after they have been triaged through CASS/MASH.

3. Family Support

Each area of the city has a local HUB with a Family Support Team. Family Support Teams adopt a whole family approach including a key worker allocated to each family. Family Support Teams work intensively with families to support them in relation to the phase two Troubled Families Programme outcomes. This includes: completing Early Help Assessments leading to "My Family Plan (MFP) through dedicated lead workers and co-ordinating services around the family. Family Support Teams offer a level of support to families who have additional needs under the Right Help, Right Time (RHRT) Framework.

4. Education

One of the factors most likely to disadvantage young people in care is the school time they may lose by being out of education, so securing a suitable school placement must be a priority. Birmingham City Council is the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. All Birmingham schools, academies and free schools give the highest priority in their oversubscription criteria for looked after children and all previously looked after children. Details about Birmingham's primary, secondary, special schools, term dates, admissions, special educational needs and 14-19 provision is available via the schools section of the main council website.

Services to Schools

For other queries, please contact the Admissions Team at Birmingham City Council on **0121 303 1888**.



5. SEN Assessment and Review Service (SENAR)

The Special Educational Needs Assessment & Review Service (SENAR) is responsible for the coordination of the statutory assessment process for children and young people with SEND, which can lead to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). SENAR can provide advice and information about support and advisory services for looked after children with an existing EHCP moving into Birmingham.

SENAR can be contacted via the CASS on:

Tel: **0121 303 1888**

Email: SENAR@birmingham.gov.uk

6. Disabled Children's Social Care (DCSC)

DCSC provides social care services for every disabled child and their family where they meet the DCSC Team's service criteria. DCSC is a citywide specialist service which provides a timely and focused assessment and planning service to help the disabled child or young person be safe, healthy and engaged in education. Each child with an intervention has a plan. DCSC focuses on encouraging children and their families to work with Social Workers to create personalised Care Plans (CPs), which may include the use of personal budgets. The focus within the service is on those children with a disability who are most in need. Most children are supported through Child in Need Plans, but some are subject to Child Protection Plans and some are in care. In these cases, DCSC is responsible for all aspects of CP and CIC planning as described above. DCSC also provides assessment and support to carers of disabled children.

Most referrals to DCSC come direct from CASS.

7. Birmingham's Virtual School

The Virtual School for Children in Care is sometimes referred to as Looked After Children Education Services (LACES).

The virtual school oversees the education of Birmingham's children in care, including those children who have educational placements outside of Birmingham, as if they were in a single school. The service provides quality educational advice and support for children in care and their carer's in early years, schools, post-16 education and in residential homes.

It comprises teams of teachers, learning mentors, instructors and professional support staff who work in partnership to ensure that children can fulfil their educational potential. The service includes outreach teams offering peripatetic support and intervention. They also maintain a split-site Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) providing onsite education options for looked after children.

An up to date register of all looked after children and young people who are



placed in Birmingham is maintained by the Virtual School and overseen by the Head of the Virtual School. You can contact the team on:

Tel: **0121 303 8003 (fax: 0121 303 387)**

Email: laces@birmingham.gov.uk

8. Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision

Birmingham Early Years' Service provides a range of information about services for children, young people and their parents which can be accessed via Birmingham City Council's website. All looked after children aged 2, 3 or 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early education (for 38 weeks per year during term time). Some may be eligible for 30 hours free early education (for 38 weeks per year). To check eligibility, please contact:

Email: NEF@birmingham.gov.uk

The Early Years' Service can offer advice and guidance about finding childcare and a nursery placement. Please contact the CASS to find childcare provision in the area that is relevant to your child on:

Tel: **0121 303 1888**

Email: familyinformation@birmingham.gov.uk

9. Children's Centres

Birmingham Forward Steps is the organisation commissioned by Birmingham City Council to bring together the health visiting service and children's centres, so that families can access the help they need from pregnancy until their child starts school. Services are currently delivered through 19 Hubs, 3 Satellites and 18 Outreach Centres across Birmingham offering a range of activities for children and their parent/carers. To ensure children develop well physically, emotionally and socially and to help keep children safe, the offer includes: 5 key assessment contacts for every child during pre-school years, community-based stay and play groups, antenatal classes delivered in partnership with community midwifery services, well baby clinics, advice and support about keeping yourself and your family healthy, support to access your child's early education entitlement, online information available to families through the website and through recommended apps and breast feeding support groups.

Birmingham Forward Steps works closely with community and statutory partners to ensure continuous support to children under the age of 5 and their families. For more information or to find your nearest centre visit:

Website: www.bhamforwardsteps.co.uk

Enquiries can be made through the CASS Team on:

Tel: **0121 303 1888**



10. Access to Health Services

All children and young people living in Birmingham have access to universal health services provided by Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust and GPs within Birmingham.

It is important that all children are registered with a local GP prior to or immediately on placement in the city, unless their previous GP is still willing and able to provide cover in the city.

The health needs of children in care are monitored by a Health Visitor or School Nurse. The Children in Care Nursing Team must also be notified by the home Local Authority or previous health provider when a child in care moves into the city. They can be contacted on:

Tel: **0121 466 3640** or **0121 203 3300**

It is also a statutory requirement that the Designated Nurse is made aware of the placement. They can be contacted as follows:

Email: katy.willitts1@nhs.net.

For general enquiries please email: nhsbsolccg.safeguarding@nhs.net.

The Children in Care Nursing Team undertake reviews of Health Assessments for children that are placed in Birmingham by other Local Authorities. In line with the national tariff found in the Department of Health's Payment by Results (PbR) Guidance there is a charge for this service.

11. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Birmingham are commissioned and provided by Forward Thinking Birmingham (FTB). They can be contacted on:

Tel: **0300 300 0099**

Where a child has known needs or has experienced significant trauma and is likely to require additional therapeutic support, it is the responsibility of the placing authority in partnership with the CCG, to ensure continuation of, and where applicable funding for, these services prior to placement. It is the responsibility of the placing Local Authority (LA) to set clear and measurable outcomes for children being placed in children's homes that deliver "therapeutic interventions".

These homes are run by independent providers and children with complex needs are frequently placed by other LAs at short notice in these types of provisions without a full assessment of what exactly is to be delivered. There is often duplication with providers being paid for therapeutic care but then the providers will also make referrals to FTB resulting in the placing LAs paying for therapeutic placements and then the home CCG also paying for additional therapeutic



12. Therapeutic Emotional Support Service (TESS)

The Therapeutic and Emotional Support Service (TESS) is an 'emotional well-being service' for Birmingham children in care. TESS provides support to young people in care in three ways:

Direct work with children and young people: The service has specialist staff, trained in a variety of therapeutic approaches. These include play and art therapy, and various 'talk therapies' and family therapy. They also have a group for older children who have difficulty managing their behaviour and who may harm themselves. Their aim is to help children and young people develop the strengths they need to deal with and overcome the challenges they face both in their present and from their past experiences.

Support for carers: While all children need loving and nurturing care, children in care often need more through the support of 'therapeutic parents'. This is because children in care have often had bad experiences happen to them that make it hard to trust adults. They can feel angry and frightened and can sometimes take that out on the people closest to them. TESS use a variety of approaches alongside individual support, including a 'therapeutic parenting group', and work with carers and their child together in order to help develop attachments.

Support for Social Workers and other professionals: Sometimes it can be difficult to know how best to help a child or young person with their emotional and behavioural problems. Alongside formal assessments, TESS provide consultation sessions at area offices as well as the 'TESS Access Point' (TAP), which is a helpline open between 9am and 12 noon for professionals and carers to help them to think about the needs of a child and to discuss making a referral.

To contact TESS call the helpline on:

Tel: **0121 675 5555** (between 9.00 am and 12 noon).

13. Substance Misuse

Aquarius provide a substance misuse service for children and young people in Birmingham. The service provides 1:1, person centred support for young people aged 18 years and under who misuse alcohol and drugs, or who live with someone who does.

The service supports young people with a variety of vulnerabilities including looked after children and those leaving Local Authority care. Mainstream partner agencies work closely with Aquarius in a multi-disciplinary approach in order to holistically meet the needs of the young person. The service is co-located with a number of key partner agencies including the Safeguarding and Family Support Hubs located across Birmingham, St Basil's Hub for homeless children and young people and all of the Youth Offending Teams (YOT) across the city. Arrangements are also in place with the local CAMHS service (via Forward Thinking Birmingham) to provide dual diagnosis and prescribing for children and young people with mental health and substance misuse issues.

The service provides a range of treatment options, including group sessions, brief interventions and structured treatment programmes, dependent on the needs of the



young person. It is an 'Open Access' service with flexible appointment options to suit individual needs.

For further details and referral information you can contact them on:

Tel: **0121 622 7780**

Email: youngpeople@aquarius.org.uk

Website: <https://aquarius.org.uk/our-services/birmingham-young-people/>

Address: Aquarius
236 Bristol Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B5 7SL

14. **Sexual Health Services**

A confidential and open access sexual health service is provided in Birmingham by Umbrella for anyone aged 13 years and above, including specialist clinics for children and young people under 25.

Umbrella works in partnership with Birmingham Community Healthcare to deliver sexual health support to children in care e.g. children's homes, foster care, post-16 years supported living and young people still living at home with their birth family. Support is usually identified through the holistic statutory Health Assessment which covers physical, emotional, social and sexual health needs. All young people are seen on a one-to-one basis, usually in their preferred location, and can receive a range of appropriate sexual health support e.g. STI testing, support with ordering STI test kits online, condom provision, pregnancy testing and advice on relationships and contraception.

Advice, information and links for young people can be found at:

Website: <https://umbrellahealth.co.uk/>

Telephone/urgent enquiries on:

0121 237 5700

(Line is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 am - 6:30 pm; Tuesdays 10:15 am - 6:30 pm and Fridays 9 am - 3:30 pm).

15. **Youth Offending Service**

Birmingham Youth Offending Service (YOS) is the largest metropolitan Youth Offending Service in the UK with staff drawn from Children's Social Care Services, Probation, Police, Education, Health and other statutory and voluntary agencies. This multi-agency approach aims to be responsive to local needs whilst addressing national targets.



The YOS will work with young people who are placed in Birmingham and are subject to a Court Order or a Youth Caution. For cases where parental responsibility is outside of this area the YOS will 'care take' of the intervention whilst the home YOS retains full case responsibility. Birmingham YOS will provide national standard contacts and the range of interventions required as part of the Court Ordered intervention. This will include one-to-one supervision, group work, specialist intervention and reparation. The YOS also provides non statutory interventions in relation to young people engaging in anti-social behaviour and delivers a Sexual Harmful Behaviour service for children aged 7-18 years old.

The core statutory provisions of the Youth Offending Service are assessment and management of risk and safeguarding and effective interventions, which support the following;

- Young people remanded in custody and Children's Trust care and those requiring intensive bail support in the community;
- Appropriate Adult services and Pre-Court interventions;
- Young people subject to civil and criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts and Orders;
- Court Orders managed in the community, including the provision of a lay youth panel to discharge the responsibilities of Referral Orders;
- Parenting Contracts and Orders;
- Restorative justice to support victims;
- Sentence planning for young people in custody and their supervision on release.
- Intervention for young people identified as 'at risk' of offending aged 8-16 years of age.

The YOS can be contacted on:

Tel: **0121 464 0600 (fax: 0121 464 0609)**

or by writing to:

Address: The Youth Offending Service
Kingsmere
18 Gravelly Hill North
Erdington
Birmingham
B23 6BQ

16. Criminal Exploitation and Missing Children

Placements of looked after children in Birmingham by other Local Authorities (OLAs) must comply with Birmingham's local safeguarding procedures which can be found at:

Website: <http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/>

If a placing LA has exploitation or missing concerns about their child then they should



discuss these with the Exploitation Co-ordinators within Birmingham Children's Trust who will consider raising the issues at the appropriate area-based COG. The area-based COG is a multi-agency meeting that will consider what disruption strategies could be bought to bear on the situation for the child placed out of their home authority area.

The placing LA must send copies of its risk assessment/ screening tools to Birmingham Exploitation Co-ordinators for information. It is also expected that the placing authority will have made the necessary arrangement for the appropriate plans and support to be in place to address any concerns about the child.

When a looked after child is placed in Birmingham by other LAs, and risks in relation to exploitation or going missing are known or suspected, the expectation is that a CSE Risk Assessment Tool and Initial Risk Assessment Form is completed. These must be sent to:

Email: cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Further details and resources can be found at:

Website: <http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/cse>

Where other LA children go missing from placements in Birmingham, the placing LA should follow their own local missing procedures.

Birmingham Children's Trust has an in-house service for undertaking Return Home Interviews (RHI) for Birmingham missing children and will do so in conjunction with the Police. The Trust does not offer RHI to children placed in Birmingham by other LAs – the responsibility for this remains with the placing LA.

17. Arrangements for Managing Allegations Against Professionals and Carers

Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures should be followed in response to any allegation made by a looked after child against a professional or carer in the Birmingham area.

Children's Trust Designated Officer (LADO) Service

The LADO Service will receive allegations about professionals, employed staff and volunteers who work with children where there is an allegation of abuse or misconduct which poses a risk to a child. The LADO Service will convene a multi-agency meeting to review the information and plan a way forward.

Birmingham's LADO Team can be contacted for an initial consultation/advice on:

Tel: **0121 675 1669**

Referrals should be made in writing to:

Email: ladoteam@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.



18. Further Information and Resources

Birmingham has a Safeguarding Children Partnership (previously known as the Local Safeguarding Children Board) which has in place safeguarding procedures, offers multi-agency training and ensures effective safeguarding practice across the city. For up to date policies and procedures please visit: <http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/>

The Birmingham Children's Trust website is a useful resource for information about children's social care services and can be accessed at: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

The Birmingham City Council website is also useful resource for more information about general services and events in Birmingham including access to sport, leisure and play opportunities and can be accessed at: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk>

Information about Health and Well-being services in Birmingham can be found at: www.the-waitingroom.org

Resources to support emotional wellbeing can be found at: www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/resources

Support for carers can be found at:

Website: www.forwardcarers.org.uk/local-services/birmingham/

Tel: **0333 006 9711**

Email: info@birminghamcarershubs.org.uk