Potentially viable placement/s identified in Kent by placing Local Authority

Placing Social Worker completes consultation request [OLA consultation form](https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-dbd42543-ab85-46db-87d4-45b977602e8d/AF-Stage9314fade-c183-4fff-b1e5-e0240e6a1680/definition.json&redirectlink=%2Fen&cancelRedirectLink=%2Fen&consentMessage=yes). Once submitted the forms will automatically be sent to Front Door Service via frontdoor@kent.gov.uk

 FDS send consultation link the relevant Service Managers

Mark Ford South/East Division (Mark.Ford@kent.gov.uk) & Ruth Bachrach North/West Division (Ruth.Bachrach@kent.gov.uk)

Service Manager or delegated individual from their service contacts placing Social Worker to discuss suitability of proposed placement.

Firm step form updated with outcome of consultation needs to evidence case discussion and state if the suitability of the placement is agreed or challenged. Form once submitted automatically returns Management Information (SecureOLA\_LAC@kent.gov.uk) and can be accessed by request.

*We cannot veto placements, but if the suitability of a placement is challenged this must be evidenced as above.*

If Placement is confirmed, Placing Authority should complete notification form BEFORE the placement starts. [OLA notification form](https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-15f88253-e343-454b-901b-58e6b24f729d/AF-Stagee34634d0-f757-4b9b-ac9f-a44a3bc1c045/definition.json&redirectlink=%2Fen&cancelRedirectLink=%2Fen&consentMessage=yes)

Child or young person not placed in Kent

matching

This guidance and flowchart provide an overview of the responsibilities placed on local authorities to consultation with potential host local authorities prior to placement.

All local authorities must consult and share information before placing children in distant placements (out of authority/out of borough) in good time to enable a thorough assessment. Regulation 11(2)(d)(ii)), as amended, The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review 1 and the Children’s Homes and Looked After Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013}

A **‘distant placement’** is defined under regulation 11(5) as amended by the Children’s Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 as: “a placement outside the area of the responsible authority and not within the area of any adjoining local authority”.

If a responsible authority is planning to place a child in Kent as the host local authority, consultation is vital to ensure effective planning and information sharing is carried out with services likely to be responsible for meeting the child’s needs. The responsible authority should assess the arrangements to access services such as primary, and secondary health care and appropriate educational provision.

Local authorities have a common interest in supporting high standards of corporate parenting for all looked after children. When approached for consultation about potential placements, we should be able to:

* offer a professional view about the benefits / difficulties of a planned placement in Kent,
* the benefits / difficulties of living in the neighbourhood where the placement is located and
* the potential for local services to respond appropriately to the needs of the child concerned.

If the placement is not considered suitable by Kent, the reason for this needs to be appropriately challenged and recorded.