

4 SUPPORT TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES

4.1 CHILD PROTECTION

- 4.1.1 Ensuring safety and welfare of children is the paramount consideration in all areas of Children's Services work with families.
- 4.1.2 Specific procedures and guidance on the protection of children can be found in the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures.

4.2 RESIDENCE ORDER ALLOWANCES

- 4.2.1 The Children Act 1989 introduced the Residence Order. This is an Order made by the Court which settles with whom a child is to live. Residence Orders provide the holder parental responsibility for the duration of the Order.
- 4.2.2 The order can be made at any time until the young person's 18th birthday and will usually last until the child is 16 years old. However s114 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 empowers Courts to direct in appropriate cases that Orders be extended until the child reaches the age of 18.
- 4.2.3 The Children Act 1989 empowers local authorities to provide financially support to holders of Residence Orders but not in the case of children living with a parent or step-parent.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A RESIDENCE ORDER?

- 4.2.4 Anyone can apply to a Court for a Residence Order. Some people need 'leave of the court' to apply whereas others such as parents can apply as of right.
- 4.2.5 An application for a Residence Order can be made by a young person in her/his own right.
- 4.2.6 A local authority cannot apply for a Residence Order.
- 4.2.7 Local authority foster carers can apply for leave to apply for a Residence Order with the consent of the local authority in respect of any child they have fostered in the last six months.
- 4.2.8 They can apply without the consent of the local authority if:

- The child has lived with them for at least one year or
- In the case of a child not under a Care Order they have the consent of all those with parental responsibility or
- They are relatives of the child

REQUESTS FOR A RESIDENCE ORDER ALLOWANCE

- 4.2.9 The Isle of Wight Fostering Panel will consider all applications for financially assisted Residence Orders.
- 4.2.10 The Panel will make recommendation on two issues:
- Whether a Residence Order is felt to be in the best interests of the young person and whether the particular placement is most suitable
 - Whether it recommends that financial assistance following the Residence Order should be offered by the Children's Services Directorate
- 4.2.11 The criteria for assisting a Residence Order should be based on the assessment of whether the young person would otherwise need to be looked after if the assistance following the Residence Order was not available.
- 4.2.12 Each application for an assisted Residence Order is be subject to a means test, similar to that used for assisted adoption applications.
- 4.2.13 A financial statement must then be completed annually and the level of assistance reviewed annually for the duration of the Order.

4.3 OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN IN NEED AND THEIR FAMILIES

CHARGING FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN NEED PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- 4.3.1 S29 of the Children Act 1989 states: *'Where a Local Authority provides any service under Section 17 or 18, other than advice, guidance or counselling, they may recover from a person specified in subsection 4 such charge for the service as they consider reasonable. No person shall be liable to pay any charge under subsection (1) at any time when he is in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit under the Social Security Act 1986.'*

- 4.3.2 Subsection (4) states the persons are:

(i) where the service is provided for a person under sixteen, each of his parents

(ii) where it is provided for a child who has reached the age of sixteen, the child himself

(iii) where it is provided for a member of the child's family, that member

4.4 CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

4.4.1 Compensation may be paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to the victims of crimes of violence, including cases of child abuse.

4.4.2 The definition of a crime of violence includes sexual offences and physical assault, as well as arson, poisoning, the deliberate use of an animal or a motor vehicle as well as a weapon etc.

4.4.3 The conditions for making an application are:

- That the applicant has suffered a physical or mental injury; that the injury was sustained in Great Britain
- That the injury arises directly from a crime of violence, an attempt to prevent an offence or an attempt to catch an offender
- That the injury was serious enough to qualify for the minimum award payable under the scheme
- That there is no likelihood that the offender will benefit from the award
- If the application is made by or on behalf of a child or young person under the age of 18 years, that an award would not act against her/his interests (e.g. it would undermine plans to return the child to her/his family)

4.4.4 There are further conditions if the victim and offender were living in the same household as members of the same family at the time of the offence:

- That the offender has been prosecuted, or there are practical, technical or other good reasons why prosecution has not been brought
- The requirement that the applicant and offender have stopped living in the same household does not apply in the case of a child. However, particular care will be taken to establish that the award would not act against the child's interests or benefit the offender

- When mental injury is present without physical injury, compensation is not payable unless one of the following conditions applies (Mental injury means a medically recognised psychiatric or psychological illness):
 - The applicant was a non consenting victim of a sexual offence
 - The applicant witnessed the offence or was closely involved in the aftermath of an offence against someone with whom they had a close relationship e.g. one sibling witnessing abuse against another sibling
 - The applicant was in fear of immediate physical harm

4.4.5 Minor injuries such as cuts and bruises will not normally qualify unless there has been a combination of at least three injuries which have had significant effect for at least six weeks and they have caused the victim to visit a doctor at least twice.

4.4.6 If the victim died as a result of the injuries, application may be made for a "fatal" award. In respect of a child who dies such an application could be made by a parent who was not implicated in the offence.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

4.4.7 Applications should normally be made within one year of injury. However, the Board may waive this requirement in the case of children if good reasons can be shown for the delay.

4.4.8 If the child is the subject of a Care Order, any application must be made by Children's Services

4.4.9 In all other situations application should be made by a person who holds parental responsibility for the child, even if the child is accommodated by the local authority.

4.4.10 The child's eligibility for compensation must always be considered by Police and Children's Services staff working with a child who may have been abused.

4.4.11 All applications must be addressed to:
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority
Tay House

300 Bath Street

Glasgow G2 4JR

Tel. 0141 3312726

Fax. 0141 3533148

4.5 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- 4.5.1 The revised Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice became effective on 1st January 2002 and replaces the earlier Code of Practice, which was issued in 1994. The major legislation, which underpins the Code is the 1996 Education Act and the SEN and Disability Act 2001.

SEN CODE OF PRACTICE

- 4.5.2 The SEN Code of Practice provides practical guidance to local authorities, the governing bodies of all maintained schools and providers of Government funded early education, and to all those who help them, including health and social services, on the discharge of their statutory functions under Part IV of the Education Act 1996.
- 4.5.3 Children with special educational needs all have learning difficulties that make it much harder for them to learn than most children of the same age.
- 4.5.4 This includes those with a range of underlying factors such as cognitive, physical or sensory difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties or difficulties with speech, language or social interaction.
- 4.5.5 It also includes those who have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the local authority's area.
- 4.5.6 Such children may need additional or different help from that given to other children of the same age.

STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 4.5.7 Children's Services should:
- Provide education authorities on services generally available for families of children 'in need' (as required under Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989)

- Make available to education authorities any relevant information on planning processes or data collection e.g. register of Children with Disabilities or the Community Care Plan
- Inform education authorities of local arrangements for the early identification of children who they think may have SEN. These are likely to be young children with developmental difficulties, disabilities or particular medical conditions
- Ensure that schools and early years provision are aware of the range of local services they provide
- Ensure that Social Workers are aware of the timescales for statutory assessment and the provision of advice
- Plan appropriate local provision so that requests from parents for residential education for a child with SEN are not made on the basis of lack of support and practical help in the local community
- Consider with education authorities Children's Services contribution to the non-education provision to be specified in a statement
- Meet senior representatives of education authorities and health services to plan and co-ordinate strategic and operational activity

SCHOOL ACTION

- 4.5.8 When a class teacher or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) identifies a child with SEN the teacher should provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum and strategies.
- 4.5.9 Under the Code of Practice this is known as 'School Action'. The parents should be consulted and the SENCO/class teacher should decide on the action required to help the child to progress.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS

- 4.5.10 Strategies employed to enable the child to progress should be recorded within the Individual Education Plan (IEP), which will include amongst other matters the short-term targets set for or by the child, the provision to be put in place and when the plan is to be reviewed.
- 4.5.11 The IEP should only record that which is additional to or different from the curriculum which is in place for all children. Schools should review IEPs at least twice a year with the parents and wherever possible the child involved. If the child is not involved in the review, their views should be obtained and considered in any discussion.

SCHOOL ACTION PLUS

- 4.5.12 At this stage external support services will usually see the child in order to advise on new IEPs with fresh targets and strategies.
- 4.5.13 School Action Plus is instigated if the child continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period or has emotional and behavioural problems which seriously interfere with their ability to learn. In addition there are other factors which may warrant this level of intervention.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATUTORY SEN ASSESSMENT

- 4.5.14 When this is requested by the school, the child will have demonstrated considerable cause for concern. The school will need to provide evidence to the education authority on the strategies that have been implemented in order to help the child and that over a reasonable period of time these have not been successful.
- 4.5.15 Social Workers are required to provide advice as part of the assessment process.
- 4.5.16 If the child is looked after and therefore has a Care Plan and Personal Education Plan, Children's Services should make these available to the LEA.
- 4.5.17 Good practice should be for the Social Worker to discuss and agree with the parents the advice which will be submitted as part of the SEN assessment.

REVIEWS OF STATEMENTS OF SEN

- 4.5.18 Social Workers should attend the annual reviews of all children who are looked after
- 4.5.19 The Headteacher must invite the child's parents, and where the local authority looks after the child - the child's Social Worker.
- 4.5.20 The Headteacher should consult the Social Worker to decide who should be invited to the review - parents, foster carers and residential workers will have a valuable contribution to make.
- 4.5.21 Social Workers should be able to contribute to realistic planning and support parental involvement in the resolution of any difficulties.

- 4.5.22 Parents may need support in attending reviews and help in writing advice, especially for a first review.
- 4.5.23 Where possible at least one looked after review per year should coincide with the annual review of the statement. This may need long-term planning, close liaison and co-operation between the Social Worker and the child's school.
- 4.5.24 Joint reviews will usually make most sense to parents and be a more efficient use of professional time.
- 4.5.25 The child's Care Plan must incorporate a Personal Education Plan that sets out the educational arrangements for the child and should include information from the statement, the annual review and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

4.6 PRIVATE FOSTERING

NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS

- 4.6.1 The Government have produced National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering. These standards apply to all local authorities. They are minimum standards, rather than best possible practice. Many local authorities will more than meet the National Minimum Standards and will aspire to exceed them in many ways. They do not mean standardisation of provision.
- 4.6.2 However, it is hoped that they will focus local authorities' attention on private fostering and lead to consistency in the way in which they carry out their duties and functions in relation to private fostering.
- 4.6.3 It is intended that the standards will be used by local authorities, and by the Commission for Social Care Inspection Commission inspecting against these standards, to focus on securing positive outcomes for privately fostered children and young people, and reducing the risks to their welfare and safety.
- 4.6.4 Observing the standards is an essential part, but only a part, of the local authority's overall responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of each individual child.
- 4.6.5 Standard 1.1 requires each local authority to produce a written statement, which sets out its duties and functions in relation to private fostering and the ways in which they will be carried out.

- 4.6.6 The Directorate has produced a Statement on Privately Fostered Children which should be read alongside these procedures.

POLICY

- 4.6.7 The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 revoke and replace the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 1991 in relation to England, following amendments to the Private Fostering Notification scheme made by Section 44 of the Children Act 2004.
- 4.6.8 The new Children Act 2004 and the Children (Private Fostering Arrangements for fostering) Regulations 2005 will strengthen the existing Private Fostering Arrangements Notification Scheme.
- 4.6.9 Regulation 3 requires any person proposing to foster a child privately, any person involved (whether directly or not) in arranging for the child to be fostered privately, and a parent of the child or other person with parental responsibility for the child who knows that it is proposed to foster the children privately, to notify the appropriate local authority in advance of the arrangement starting.
- 4.6.10 Notification by the proposed private foster carer has to be given at least six weeks before the private fostering arrangement is to begin, or where the arrangement is to begin within six weeks then immediately. Others required to give notification under Regulation 3 must do so as soon as possible after the arrangement has been made, or as soon as possible after they become aware of the arrangement.

DEFINITION

- 4.6.11 A privately fostered child means a child who is under the age of 16 (18 if s/he is disabled) and who is cared for and accommodated for 28 days or more by someone other than a parent, other persons with parental responsibility or close relative (Such as grandparent, brother, sister uncle or aunt (whether of full blood or half blood or by affinity,) or step-parent).
- 4.6.12 Private fostering is the arrangement made between the parent and the private foster parent who becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way and to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

DELEGATIONS	TO
Assessment as to whether plan for private fostering is suitable for child/children	Private Fostering Social Worker (Core Assessment)
Decision on suitability of private fostering arrangement	Team Manager, Children's Support Services and PF Team in consultation with Service Manager
Responsibility for visiting child in placement	Social Worker C & FCT
Responsibility for statutory visits and populating Private Foster Care Register	Private Fostering Social Worker
Responsibility to support carer	Social Worker C & FCT and Foster Care Training from Fostering Team
Responsibility to financially support placement	Parent of child or those with parental responsibility
Notification re: placement or proposed placement of child	Children's Services – Education, schools, Health Authority, GPs members of the public
Responsibility to offer advice and assistance (Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000)	Looked After Children Team 16 Plus

NOTIFICATIONS**Carers**

- 4.6.13 Carers must notify the local authority that they are proposing to receive a child to be privately fostered. The authority must be notified not less than 6 weeks before placement is due to take place or immediately if the arrangement is to begin within 6 weeks.
- 4.6.14 Where a placement has already begun and the local authority has not been notified, the carer must notify the local authority immediately.

Parents

- 4.6.15 Parents or people with parental responsibility for a child, who have been involved in arranging for the child to be privately fostered, must notify the local authority in the proposed area of the arrangement as soon as possible after the arrangement has been made.

- 4.6.16 Parents or people with parental responsibility for a child, who have not been involved in arranging for the child to be privately fostered, must notify the local authority in the proposed area of the arrangement as soon as possible after they become aware that such an arrangement has been made.

Others

- 4.6.17 Any other person who is or proposes to be involved in arranging for a child to be fostered privately must notify the local authority as soon as possible after the arrangement has been made.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL TO FOSTER A CHILD PRIVATELY

- 4.6.18 Where a local authority have received notification under Regulation 3 they must, for the purposes of discharging their duty under s67(1) of the Act (welfare of privately fostered children), arrange for an officer of the authority within seven working days to:
- Visit the premises where it is proposed that the child will be cared for and accommodated
 - Visit and speak to the proposed private foster carer and to all members of her/his household
 - Visit and speak to the child, alone unless the officer considers it inappropriate
 - Speak to and, if it is practicable to do so, visit every parent or person with parental responsibility for the child
 - Establish such matters listed in Schedule 2 as appear to the officer to be relevant
- 4.6.19 Having completed the above duties the officer must make a written report to the local authority.

NOTIFICATION BY A PERSON ALREADY FOSTERING A CHILD PRIVATELY

- 4.6.20 A person who is fostering a child privately and has not given notification to the appropriate local authority in accordance with Regulation 3 must notify the appropriate local authority immediately.
- 4.6.21 Notification given under must contain such of the information specified in Schedule 1 as the person giving the notification is able to provide.

NOTIFICATION OF A CHILD GOING TO LIVE WITH PRIVATE FOSTER CARER

- 4.6.22 A person who has given notification under Regulation 3(1) must, within 48 hours of the start of the arrangement, notify the appropriate local authority of the fact.
- 4.6.23 A parent of a child, and any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, who has given notification under Regulation 3(2) or 3(3) must within 48 hours of the child's going to live with a private foster carer, notify the appropriate local authority of the fact.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION ABOUT A CHILD BEING FOSTERED PRIVATELY

- 4.6.24 Where a local authority have received a notification under Regulation 5 or 6 they must for the purposes of discharging their functions under s67(1) of the Act, arrange for an officer of the authority within seven working days to:
- Visit the premises where the child is being cared for and accommodated
 - Visit and speak to the private foster carer and to all members of her/his household
 - Visit and speak to the child, alone unless the officer considers it inappropriate
 - Speak to and, if it is practicable to do so, visit every parent of or person with parental responsibility for the child
 - Establish such matters listed in Schedule 3 as appear to the officer to be relevant
- 4.6.25 Having completed the above duties the officer must make a written report to the local authority.

SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO CHILDREN WHO ARE BEING FOSTERED PRIVATELY

- 4.6.26 Each local authority must arrange for an officer of the authority to visit every child who is being fostered privately in their area:
- In the first year of the private fostering arrangement, at intervals of not more than six weeks
 - In any second or subsequent year, at intervals of not more than 12 weeks

- 4.6.27 In addition the local authority must arrange for every child who is fostered privately in their area to be visited by an officer when reasonably requested to do so by the child, the private foster carer, a parent of the child or any other person with parental responsibility for the child.
- 4.6.28 When carrying out a visit under this Regulation the officer must speak to the child alone unless s/he considers it inappropriate.
- 4.6.29 When carrying out a visit under this Regulation the officer must establish such matters listed in Schedule 3 as appear to her/him to be relevant.
- 4.6.30 The officer must make a written report to the local authority after each visit carried out in accordance with this Regulation.
- 4.6.31 For the purposes of this Regulation, the private fostering arrangement is deemed to begin when the local authority become aware of it.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

- 4.6.32 A private foster carer must notify the appropriate local authority of:
- Any change of address
 - Any further offence of which he or a person who is part of or employed at her/his household has been convicted
 - Any further disqualification imposed on her/him or a person who is part of or employed at his household under s68 of the Act
 - Any person who begins to be part of or employed at his household, and any offence of which that person has been convicted, and any disqualification or prohibition imposed on her/him under s68 or 69 of the Act or under any previous enactment of either of those sections
 - Any person who ceases to be part of or employed at her/his household
- 4.6.33 Notification must be given:
- In advance if practicable
 - In any other case, not more than 48 hours after the change of circumstances
- 4.6.34 If the private foster carer's new address is in the area of another local authority, or of a local authority in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, the authority to whom the notification is given under this Regulation must pass on to the authority for the area:

- The name and new address of the private foster carer
 - The name of the child who is being fostered privately
 - The name and address of the child's parents or any other person who has parental responsibility for her/him
- 4.6.35 The parent of a privately fostered child, and any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, who knows that the child is being fostered privately, must notify the appropriate local authority of any change of her/his own address.

NOTIFICATION OF THE END OF A PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT

- 4.6.36 Any person who has been fostering a child privately but has ceased to do so must notify the appropriate local authority within 48 hours and must include in the notification the name and address of the person into whose care the child was received and that person's relationship with the child.
- 4.6.37 Where a person has been fostering a child privately but has ceased to do so because of the death of the child he must in his notification to the local authority indicate that this is the reason.
- 4.6.38 Notification is not required where the private foster carer intends to resume the private fostering arrangement after an interval of not more than 27 days (but s/he must notify the local authority within 48 hours of abandoning her/his intention or, as the case may be, the expiry of the interval) if:
- She subsequently abandons his intention
 - The interval expires without his having given effect to his intention
- 4.6.39 Any parent of a privately fostered child, and any other person who has parental responsibility for a child, who has given notification to the local authority of a private fostering arrangement must notify the appropriate local authority of the ending of the private fostering arrangement and must include in the notification the name and address of the person into whose care the child was received and that person's relationship with the child.

FORM OF NOTIFICATION

- 4.6.40 Any notification required under these Regulations must be given in writing and may be sent by post.

MONITORING THE DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS UNDER PART 9 OF THE ACT

- 4.6.41 Each local authority must monitor the way in which they discharge their functions under Part 9 of the Act and must appoint an officer of the authority for that purpose.
- 4.6.42 The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 1991(a) in so far as they apply to England are revoked, save that any notification given under those Regulations before the coming into force of these Regulations shall be treated as if it had been given under these Regulations.

ASSESSMENT

- 4.6.43 The Referral and Assessment Team will on receipt of a notification regarding a proposed private fostering arrangement or existing private fostering arrangement (unknown to the local authority) undertake an Initial Assessment speaking to the proposed private foster carer, members of his household, the child and others (Regulation 4) and establish such matters as listed in Schedule 2 as appear relevant to the Social Worker.
- 4.6.44 If it is established that a private foster care arrangement is being planned or already exists the case will be transferred to the Children and Families Community Team (Child under the age of 16 years) or the Children's Disability Team (Child aged under the age of 18 years).
- 4.6.45 On receipt of notification of a proposed private fostering arrangement or of an existing private fostering arrangement (previously unknown to the local authority) from the case holding Social Worker in the Children & Families Community Team or the Children's Disability Team the Social Workers will meet and the Private Fostering Social Worker Children's Support & Private Fostering Team will be introduced to the child, family and carers and begin an assessment of the arrangement.
- 4.6.46 The Core Assessment format will be used as the assessment tool incorporating all the information required under Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 of The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005.
- 4.6.47 Consent will be sought from the parent or person with parental responsibility to undertake enquiries regarding the child's education and health.

- 4.6.48 Consent will be sought from the private foster carer and all other adults (over the age of 16) in the household in order that CRB disclosures can be sought.
- 4.6.49 On completion of the report and receipt of references the Team Manager Children's Support Services & Private Fostering Team in consultation with the Service Manager will make a decision regarding the suitability of the arrangement.

PROHIBITION/DISQUALIFICATION

- 4.6.50 Under the Children Act 1989 s68 & s69 a person may be disqualified from private fostering if:
- S/he has been convicted of certain offences
 - An order has been made at any time in respect of a child in her/his care
 - Her/his rights and powers over a child have been removed from her/his care at any time
 - S/he has been refused registration as a childminder or similar
 - S/he has been prohibited from fostering privately
 - S/he live in the same household as someone who is disqualified

NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION

- 4.6.51 Once the decision has been made regarding the suitability of the arrangements the Social Worker must notify in writing:
- The carers (individual letter) with copy of the report
 - The parents (individual letter) with copy of the report
 - The G.P.
 - The Headteacher

VISITING REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOCIAL WORKER

- 4.6.52 There is an obligation on the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of privately fostered children which must be met by the Social Worker, who must undertake visits as follows:
- From time to time and when reasonably requested so to do by the child, a parent of the child or any other person with parental responsibility, or foster carer and
 - In the first year of the arrangement within 1 week of its beginning and thereafter at intervals of not more than 6 weeks

- In any second or subsequent year at intervals of not more than 12 weeks
- 4.6.53 The child must be seen at every visit, alone unless the Social Worker considers this inappropriate and a written record must be placed on file.
- 4.6.54 During these visits the Social Worker must establish those of the following issues that appear relevant:
- That the intended duration of the arrangement is understood and agreed between:
 - the parents of the child or any other person with parental responsibility and
 - the proposed foster carer
 - The wishes and feelings of the child about the arrangement
 - That the child's physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development is appropriate and satisfactory
 - That the child's needs arising from her/his religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background are being met
 - That the financial arrangements for the care and maintenance of the child are working
 - The capacity of the foster carer to look after the child
 - The suitability of the accommodation
 - That the arrangements for care of the child's health are in place and, in particular, that the child is included on the list of a GP
 - The arrangements for the child's education
 - The standard of care which the child is being given
 - Whether the contact between the child and her/his parents, or any other person with whom contact has been arranged, is satisfactory for the child
 - How decisions about the care of the child will be taken

UNSATISFACTORY CARE

- 4.6.55 Where the Social Worker and/or Team Manager are not satisfied that the child's developmental needs are being met, the Social Worker must complete an Initial and/or Core Assessment in accordance with the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families.

- 4.6.56 If there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, the child protection procedures must be invoked.
- 4.6.57 The birth parents must be advised and if necessary assisted to remove the child and make alternative arrangements for their care.
- 4.6.58 If the parents refuse or are unable to remove the child legal advice must be sought with a view to the Directorate seeking an Order authorising the removal of the child.

CHILDREN (LEAVING CARE) ACT 2000

Qualifying children and young people over 16

- 4.6.59 Any young person aged under 21 (under 24 if in education or training) who ceases to be looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or privately fostered, after the age of 16 becomes 'a person qualifying for advice and assistance.'

PRIVATE FOSTERING REGISTER

- 4.6.60 The Local Authorities Private Fostering Register will be populated and maintained by the Private Fostering Social Worker.

4.7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WORK WITH CHILDREN

- 4.7.1 Children and young people living with domestic violence may require the protection of the formal child protection procedures. This section should therefore be read in conjunction with the ACPC child protection procedures.
- 4.7.2 Such children are likely to be children in need and as such need opportunities for safe disclosure of their experiences and feelings. Their views and concerns should be sought, in a manner which is appropriate to their age and mode of communication.
- 4.7.3 Where a s47 enquiry/investigation is being carried out, the presence of domestic violence in the home situation should always be considered and where there are two parents the interview should be structured to allow the worker/s to see each on their own.
- 4.7.4 Where a woman discloses domestic violence, the risk to and impact on the children should always be considered. This in practice means

clarifying the mother's views on this matter, and forming a view as to whether:

- The child is in need of services. The decision that a child is in need of services does not rule out consulting other professionals and assessing risk and/or
- Enquiries under s47 are justified in which case the views of other professionals involved with the family should be sought as part of the means of assessing the risk to the child