

SCR James Recommendations

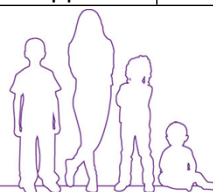
| Recommendation No | Recommendation | Agency Responsible | Agency Response |
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| 1 | <p>It is recommended that the Department for Education (DfE) consider the wider remit for Looked after Children inspections to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of Ofsted inspections for all LAC provisions, regardless of the type of placement provided. • An inspection to monitor the commissioning and compliance, checks by the local authority as to the suitability of the placement, experience of placement staff and financial checks made as to the suitability of the company and board of directors, providing the service provision. • An opportunity for DfE and Ofsted enhancing support for local authorities, with the consideration of developing a national directory of suitable LAC service provider companies and directors in the industry. | Department for Education | Update pending. |
| 2 | <p>It is recommended that Thurrock LSCB required, Thurrock Children's Commissioning and Service Transformation, to carry out a review of the supervision of commissioned contracts and spot purchases of LAC placements to ensure the continued stability of the accommodation for Looked After Children</p> | Thurrock Children's Social Care | A review of contracts has been undertaken and as a result contracts have been reissued to all placement providers to ensure that signed copies are on file. These are in the process of being returned and are being monitored for compliance using new processes implemented. |



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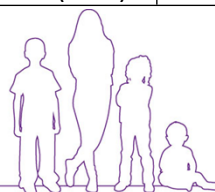


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| 3 | It is recommended that Thurrock LSCB require, Thurrock Children's Commissioning and Service Transformation, to share relevant information of concerns obtained from financial checks and scrutiny of their LAC placement service providers, with other regional local authority commissioning services, to ensure that only appropriate and viable contracts are awarded. | Thurrock Children's Social Care | Financial checks have been completed on all providers and those considered high risk are having a detailed review including analysis of their profit and loss account. Where providers are deemed to be at a high risk of instability an alert is issued to the Head of Service and Placement Manager. Checks will be repeated annually as a minimum but where there is a risk identified this will be more frequent with a graduated response depending on the level of risk. |
| 4 | It is recommended that Thurrock Children Social Care review the Thurrock Gang and Youth Violence, Local Authority Process, 2016, to include commissioning checks to the suitability of the location of LAC placements to ensure that vulnerable children and young people are not placed in an area of significant gang and youth violence. | Thurrock Children's Social Care | Commissioning processes are in place to check intelligence re: possible gang activity prior to the commissioning of placements. The department will continue to review and strengthen these in-line with local gang strategies and intelligence from partners. Providers will be asked to provide evidence of their actions to address the potential impact of gang affliction on placements. |
| 5 | It is recommended that Thurrock LSCB require Thurrock Children Social Care and NELFT, review LAC Care Plans and LAC Reviews, to ensure outstanding Mental Health assessments are notified and if required, escalated to the Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group or appropriate partner agencies, in order that outstanding assessments are followed up and completed to a satisfactory standard, with the rationale recorded. | Thurrock Children's Social Care and NELFT | Revised guidance is being issued to IROs. New suicide prevention guidance has been issued to all front line staff. Monitoring arrangements for high SDQ scores and mental health concerns have been tightened within new terms of reference for the Health Steering Group. |
| 6 | It is recommended that Thurrock LSCB request NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group under the Responsible Commissioners Arrangement, to escalate and provide support | Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) | Update Pending |



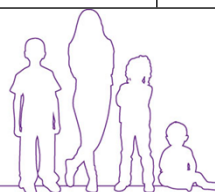
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| | when notified by partner agencies, where a health practitioner makes a mental health referral for children and young people, which remains outstanding. This is in order to obtain a satisfactory outcome for the patient, with the rationale of the decisions recorded on the patients' health file by the provider organisation. | | |
| 7 | It is recommended that Thurrock LSCB require Thurrock Children Social Care, NHS Thurrock CCG and NELFT, to ensure that when a Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SGQ) identifies that a LAC has been assessed with severe difficulties, there is a robust system in place to track these high risk cases with appropriate intervention levels and effective pathways established and applied, to address the concerns in support of the LAC. | Thurrock Children Social Care, NHS Thurrock CCG and NELFT | The Health Steering Group, as part of its new terms of reference, will monitor all children with a SDQ score of 16+. |
| 8 | It is recommended that Thurrock CSC ensure that supervisors and LAC Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO), develop a matrix for the early identification of escalating concerns with LAC and of action taken to address those concerns. This should include an effective system to monitor and distribute LAC minutes to appropriate key practitioners to guarantee that any actions identified are satisfactorily completed. Any interventions can be reflected with the IRO annual report for monitoring purposes | Thurrock Children Social Care | Revised escalation processes have been developed by the Service Manager for Safeguarding, Child Protection and Quality Assurance. Regular IRO Cases of Concern meetings are held between the Service Manager for Children Looked After, Service Manager for Safeguarding, Child Protection and Quality Assurance, IROs and the social work teams to pro-actively address any concerns / issues. |
| 9 | It is recommended that the Metropolitan Police Services (MPS) | MPS | Update Pending |



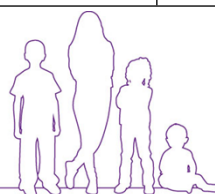
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| | remind custody officers that any apparent condition or vulnerabilities disclosed to a Forensic Medical Examiner (FME) by a child or young person in custody must be risk assessed. If this highlights any risks or concerns, this should be referred to the appropriate agency partners by the investigating officer upon the completion of a MERLIN. | | |
| 10 | It is recommended that Norfolk Constabulary review their custody safeguarding arrangements for the detention and supervision of children and young people within their care. This is to ensure that Police records accurately record all safeguarding arrangements and action agreed with Children Social Care for the outcome and welfare of children and young people within their custody. | Norfolk Constabulary | Update Pending |
| 11 | It is recommended that Norfolk Children Social Care, review their compliance to the Children Act 1989 for children and young people presenting as homeless in their area, as to their safeguarding and welfare arrangements for vulnerable children and young people | Norfolk Children Social Care | Update Pending |
| Learning on the Fringes | | | |
| 12 | Thurrock Health Service providers, should consider with NHS England whether there is a wider learning of the requirements of FME's to share information and not as present, a required police responsibility. | Thurrock Health Services/NHS England | Update Pending |
| 13 | There should be a dialogue with the National Police Chiefs | LSCB Executive | Update Pending |



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| | Council (NPCC), for them to consider the wider implications and requirement to review police practice nationally in respect of the practice undertaken by the MET with their MERLINS. | | |
| 14 | NELFT's IMR highlights that Children's Social Care could inform health professionals of the details of vulnerable young people in need of CIN plans, to determine the level of Universal Health Services to be provided and also further suggests that Thurrock CCG consider commissioning a programme for keeping young people from becoming NEET. | Children's Social Care/Thurrock CCG | Thurrock Children's Social Care & NELFT are currently reviewing information sharing protocols to ensure that health staff actively engage and are facilitated to engage fully in CIN plans. |
| 15 | Education – There is a requirement that a pupil should not be taken off a school roll until the forwarding school is known. | Schools Safeguarding Forum | <p>Further guidance has been sent out to all schools in the September 2016 Headteachers' Bulletin. This sets out the statutory requirements regarding placing and removing pupils from a school admissions register.</p> <p>The full requirements are described out in the guidance documents.</p> <p>Children missing education: statutory guidance for local authorities DFE-00214-2016</p> <p>School attendance Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities DfE November 2016</p> |



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| | | | The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 |
| 16 | When a young person finishes Year 11, what tracking arrangements are put in place to monitor that young people do not become NEET? | Schools Safeguarding Forum | Extensive tracking of all young people is undertaken by the Virtual School. Young people's NEET status is a key corporate performance indicator and children missing education are tracked by the DCS. |

