

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

Authorisations for Local Authority Care

This form must be completed for all requests to accommodate children into LA care.

The purpose of the form is to pull together in one place the assessment of need and rational for agreeing accommodation into LA care and placement decisions. The form prompts staff at all levels to ensure they have followed appropriate procedures, considered all relevant legislation and have put in place a rational to enable a child or parent to see what decisions were made and why.

The request for care must be agreed by the Team Manager and the PALAC should be sent to the responsible Service Manager for authorisation.

Where the placement is Out of Area or the placement is external provision the service manager will send to the Head of Service AD for final authorisation.

Date of this request		Team	
Name of Social Worker		Name of Team Manager	

DETAILS of EACH CHILD REQUIRING LOCAL AUTHORITY PLACEMENT

NAME OF CHILD		DOB		CAREFIRST ID	
NAME OF CHILD		DOB		CAREFIRST ID	
HOME ADDRESS					
PARENTS DETAILS	Mother		Father		
Information on siblings that are NOT part of this referral					
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CURRENT CARE ARRANGEMENT e.g. home or LAC			

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

1) **Summarise** the Social Work Assessment and outline the **analysis** leading to the request for LA care.

2) **If this is a S20 request** being made by the parent of young person you must have presented the case to Support and Prevention Panel. Outline date and outcome of SPP

3) **Summarise** previous Children's Social Work Intervention (include this and other Local Authorities). Specifically outline: Previous S47 enquiries, Periods of Child Protection Plans, Previous Care history.

4) Details of any current or previous Legal Action/Care Proceedings. Include dates and outcome of any Legal Planning Meeting held

5) Has an initial/emergency placement of a child with extended family member, friends or connected person been identified?

Legislation:

Where a decision has been made to receive a child into Local Authority care the LA have a duty to try and identify a family member, friend or connected person to the child to act as carer on behalf of the LA in order to keep the child connected to its family community and to cause minimal disruption to the child's life.

Where an emergency placement is needed and a family member, that is familiar to the children and has no concerns from initial LA and Police checks can be identified, the children should be placed here rather than in an unfamiliar foster care arrangement.

The Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 regulation 24 allow for the emergency placement of a child with a connected person prior to the completion of the full assessment for a period of up to 16weeks if Service Manager for authorisation.

Full assessment can continue once in placement alongside any other connected persons assessments as part of the care planning for the children.

Yes - Continue section 5 and send to Service Manager:

No - move on to Section 6 of this form

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

To enter X place cursor at the front of the relevant box, left click on the mouse and select “checked”

Name of carer:	
Address:	
Relationship to child:	
Confirm outcome of police and LA checks	
Outline parents view on the FFC placement	

Service Manager authorisation and comments on a [connected person placement](#).

Name		Date:	

Where no family carer can be identified continue with completion of this form

6) Outline why a Family, Friend or connected Person care arrangement is not available or suitable. Give detail/relationship of those family contacted and ruled out.

7) What is the **parent** view on the child being received into local authority care

8) What is the **child/young person's** views on being received into local authority care

9) Internal placement options – to be completed by CPS and choice selected by Team Manager

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

Name of carer/unit	Placement type e.g. foster care residential	Note any specific placement issues which may inform the decision as to the most appropriate placement e.g. delayed available start date, restrictions on care provision	Choice selected by TM with rational

Plz indicate here if no internal matches are available based on vacancies and age matches

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Social Worker		Date	
Authorising TM to this Request		Date	

10) Service Manager authorisation **to internal placement** or comments where no internal placement available. If no internal placement / match appropriate proceeded to complete section 12)

Name		Date:	

Duration of placement agreed by Service Manager:

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Short Break / Shared Care

11) **Evidencing decision making and rational** : Please use this next section to record any ongoing discussion between managers / social worker to recorded ongoing discussion/rational and decision. **please date and sign each entry**

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

External Placement Details and Funding Authorisation

Selection and Authorisation of identified local authority care placement

12) Outline all external placement options identified within this search and provisional costs. All requests should go to the fostering framework (to be completed by placement co-ordinator)

	Name and Addresses of Provider and carer/unit	Placement type e.g. external foster care residential	Placement weekly cost per child	Additional costs requiring separate Service Agreement	Is this placement to be provided within the fostering or residential framework /contract	Note any specific placement issues which may inform the decision as to the most appropriate placement e.g. delayed available start date, restrictions on care provision
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

13) If the preferred placement is outside of Shropshire confirm that the following have been completed and addressed – detail issues/comments below

[The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations June 2015](#) state that local authorities are required to consult and share information **before** placing children in distant placements and the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) or the delegated officer must approve of these placements. These changes reinforce local authorities’ responsibilities as corporate parents for looked-after children to provide high quality care and support. (ALSO SEE APPENDIX 1)

- *Parents and Childs views, wishes and feelings regarding the proposed placement being outside Shropshire*
- *Any required changes in Education and Health provision currently received. Have services in the area (e.g. education and health) been identified to meet needs.*
- *If preferred placement will necessitate a change of Education provision where child at KS4, more detailed information is needed including details of proposed arrangements to minimise disruption of education*

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

- IRO views were an existing LAC child/young person.

For an emergency placement out of area, see Care Regs 3.36. Minimum requirement to ascertain wishes and feelings of child. Please record responses to the above four bullet points HERE.....

14) Team Manager / Service Manager to identify primary placement selected from options above. Include reasons for this being the most appropriate way to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare and meets child’s needs as set out in the Child’s Plan

15) Head of Service authorisation required for ALL out of area and external placements

Duration of placement agreed by HoS:

Emergency
(up to 2 weeks)

Up to 12 weeks

Long term/permanency
(24 weeks +)

Short Break / Shared Care

HoS Name		Date:	
----------	--	-------	--

Appendix 1

Suggested Information for Discussion between Authorities when Planning Distant Placements

Basic information about the child

- Name and date of birth;
- Legal status (subject of a care order (s.31 Children Act); voluntarily accommodated (s.20) remanded (s. 21);
- Number of previous placements – outline reasons for child leaving earlier placements.

Plans for the child's care

- Details of the assessment of the child's needs, with information about the child's wishes and feelings, with reasons the planned placement is suitable;
- Duration of placement (emergency/short-term/long-term/permanent). If it is not possible to assess the intended duration of placement – reasons for this and when this information will be available;
- Details of who will be responsible for implementing plans for the child's day to day care (the 'placement plan') including details of arrangements for delegating responsibilities to the child's carer(s);
- Details of any plans to offer the child care leaving support (as an 'eligible child') during the anticipated duration of the placement;
- Contingency arrangements if the plan to support the child in the current placement does not succeed.

Services to support the child

PATHWAY TO ACCOMMODATION INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE (PALAC)

- Details of plans to meet the child's educational needs – information about the school the child is expected to attend; details of plans for supporting the child if a school has not been identified;
- Information about plans to meet the child's health needs, e.g. whether the child requires secondary health care (including mental health and other specialist health care), including details about the CCG acting as "responsible commissioner.";
- Details of any youth justice supervision order that would need to be overseen by youth justice services in the area authority.

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, area authorities should be able to offer a professional view about the benefits of a planned placement, the benefits 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.

Local authorities could also advise about other sources of information to assist social workers and commissioners in determining whether a distant out of authority placement is the most appropriate for the child concerned (e.g. the Virtual School Head or the Designated Nurse for looked-after children).