

## **Annex 4: Suggested Information for Discussion between Authorities when Planning Distant Placements**

This information could be summarised in a written format and used as the basis for notifying the area authority [**Regulation 13**]

### **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.
- Arrangements for contact.
- 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**

- 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."<sup>28</sup>
- Details of any youth justice supervision order that would need to be overseen by youth justice services in the area authority<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> Who Pays? Determining responsibility for payments to providers August 2013

<sup>29</sup> See - The National Protocol for Case Responsibility (England only) to promote consistent practice with regard to the responsibilities of youth offending teams (YOTs) concerning contact with young people from outside a YOT area

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).