

Thurrock Council
Civic Offices, New Road
Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Dear colleague,

Placement of Looked After Children in Thurrock

This letter sets out the process of notifying us of the placement of a looked after child or care leaver in Thurrock, information about accessing services and important contact information that will be relevant in any situation in which another local authority is considering placing a looked after child within the Thurrock area.

It is the responsibility of the placing local authority to formally notify the local authority and relevant Clinical Commissioning Group before a placement commences.

Please circulate this information to relevant professionals within your area. We hope that this information will help your professional staff understand and access the range of services that are available to children residing in Thurrock.

Consultation prior to placement

In line with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations prior to placement you will need to consult with us. This is important because we will have information about the local area that will help you decide whether it is safe or appropriate to make the placement or not.

Our Placements Manager with this responsibility is available on 01375 652919 or 01375 659790 or via email – ooaplacements@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk.

When considering a placement you should take into account the Ofsted rating, Statement of Purpose, Local Area Risk Assessment and all other relevant information to enable appropriate matching and safeguarding.

Notification of placement / placement move or end

Once the decision has been made to place a child in Thurrock and after consultation has taken place formal notifications should be sent to the following email address – ooaplacements@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk or by phone on the above two telephone numbers, or if out of hours on 01375 372468.

Placement moves or ending a placement should be notified in the same way.

For new placements we will need the following information which should be sent via your own Local Authority standard form. **All information must be provided.**

- The child's full name and any aliases
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Placing authority
- Social Worker and IRO name and contact details
- Emergency details for home authority
- The child's legal status
- **Whether this is notification of a new placement, a change (including placement move) or end of placement**
- Date placement started or date due to change or end
- Carer / placement type (foster carer, children's home or other)
- Carer contact details including address
- Particular needs or risks to the child such as child sexual exploitation, missing episodes, SEN, disability, youth offending, mental health needs etc.
- School name and address (old and planned new school if known)
- GP details (old and/or new if known)

Services available for Looked After Children

Education

School admissions

Admissions arrangements for all schools in Thurrock include priority for looked after children. The Council seeks to ensure schools for which it is not the admission authority comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

Advice on school admissions can be obtained from our website - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-admissions>

By emailing:
school.admissions@thurrock.gov.uk

By calling:
01375 652883

Virtual school

The Thurrock Virtual School has a commitment to supporting all Thurrock looked after children who are placed in and out of borough. We have a full time head teacher and a number of support staff. We also commission the 'welfare call' system.

We will work alongside other local authorities, who have placed a looked after child in Thurrock, to support their education where necessary. Social workers from outside

Thurrock are able to access the attainment levels of their children placed in Thurrock schools from our data team.

Careers information, advice and guidance

Thurrock Careers offer information and advice for 13-19 year olds or up to age 25 for anyone with special educational needs. Personalised support is provided via Personal Advisors in the following areas:

- Jobs and careers
- Education
- Training and work
- Learning
- Volunteering
- Finance
- Health
- Housing

The service is based at the Inspire Youth Hub, 24-28 Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5EB. Drop in and appointments based services are available.

Tel – 01375 413735

Email – thurrockcareers@thurrock.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Where a looked after child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the SEN service will work with the placing local authority to ensure children have their needs met. SEN case workers co-ordinate assessment and planning for services to meet their needs, including placement of pupils in settings and schools.

The Educational Psychology Service carry out work related to the development, learning, behavioural and emotional difficulties of children.

SEN case workers can be contacted on 01375 652 555 – email – sen@thurrock.gov.uk

The Thurrock Local Offer provides a full description of the range of support available in Thurrock and can be found at - <http://www.askthurrock.org.uk/kb5/thurrock/fis/localoffer.page>

The Independent Advice and Support Service assist all parents/carers of children with special educational needs as well as being accessible by young people independently. Free, impartial advice is available to assist with requests for assessment, the EHCP process, school placements, meetings with schools and exclusions.

The Team can be contacted on 01375 389894 – email – info@patt.org.uk – web – www.patt.org.uk -

Early Years, childcare and nursery provision

Thurrock has nine Children's Centres located across the authority offering families of children aged 0-11 with a variety of services available including stay and play, health services, advice, support, guidance and parenting.

The purpose of the centres is to improve outcomes in child development, school readiness, health, parenting and parental aspirations.

More information on Children's Centres can be found at - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/childrens-centres>

Information on entitlement to free nursery education, childcare, parent and toddler groups and out of school clubs can be found at - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/finding-childcare/childcare-options>

Safeguarding and Child Protection

If there are concerns that a child placed in Thurrock has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, we will notify the responsible local authority and take responsibility for initiating child protection procedures and strategy discussions. We will liaise with the Police and partner agencies in consultation with the child's social work or emergency duty team within the relevant local authority.

The initial point of contact is the Thurrock Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – Tel - 01375 652802 – email – gcthurrockmash@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk

Emergency out of hours – 01375 372468 (4.30pm to 9.00am during the week and all throughout the weekend)

Police Child Abuse Team – 01277 266822

Children who go missing

Thurrock expects that social workers from the placing authority complete and maintain a risk assessment and actions to be taken in the event that children placed in Thurrock are absent or missing.

If an agency becomes aware of a child who is missing they should contact the Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 01375 652802 – email - gcthurrockmash@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk

Emergency out of hours – 01375 372468

Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation

Thurrock has an operational Multi Agency Child Exploitation group (MACE) that regularly reviews young people who are at risk of exploitation. Risk reduction plans will be put in place where relevant.

If a child placed in Thurrock by another local authority is discussed at this group we would expect that the allocated social worker attends this meeting.

Full details of known risks for children placed in Thurrock should be identified prior to placement and updated where new risks are identified at any time during the placement.

If you have a looked after child and have concerns please contact the Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 01375 652802 – email - gcthurrockmash@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk

Emergency out of hours – 01375 372468

Local Area Designated Officer (LADO)

When we have reasonable cause to believe that a person who works with children in the Thurrock area has harmed or poses a risk to a child this will be dealt with under the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Child safeguarding procedures.

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/how-we-keep-children-safe/set-child-protection-procedures>

If the professional works in Thurrock then Thurrock Council will take the lead but will need to work closely with the placing local authority.

Our designated officer can be contacted on: 01375 652535 or 01375 652921 or by email – lado@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk

In the event of the requirement for immediate contact should the LADO not be available please contact the Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 01375 652802 – email - gcthurrockmash@thurrock.gcsx.gov.uk

Emergency out of hours – 01375 372468

Youth Offending Services

Thurrock has a Youth Offending Team based in Corringham. They can be contacted on 01375 652990. Email – grp.thurrockyot@thurrock.cjsm.net

The team is made up of multi-disciplinary staff consisting of Case Managers, Social Care, Police and Probation. The team manage court work, prevention, intervention, enforcement and reparation.

The Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) and the triage team focus on prevention programmes for 8-16 year olds and pre-court diversion programmes for 10 to 17 year olds.

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The LSCB in Thurrock oversees the implementation of systems, processes and services for safeguarding children.

The LSCB can be contacted on 01375 652 813 – email – lscb@thurrock.gov.uk – website – www.thurrocklscb.org.uk

Health

All looked after children and young people in Thurrock are entitled to universal, targeted and secondary care services.

The health needs of looked after children in Thurrock are monitored by our Specialist Nurse for looked after children.

To request a Health Assessment please email – nem-tr.thurrockLAC@nhs.net or call 01375 652085

Details of all health services can be found at - <http://www.askthurrock.org.uk/kb5/thurrock/fis/home.page>

Details on improving children's health can be found at - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/improving-your-health/overview>

Immunisations and vaccination - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/immunisation-and-vaccination/immunisation-services>

Sexual and reproductive health - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sexual-and-reproductive-health/emergency-contraception>

Drugs and alcohol - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/drugs-and-alcohol/support-services>

School Nursing - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-nursing/school-nurses>

Other support services

The Family Information Service which maintains details of all services in Thurrock can be contacted on – 01375 652801 – email – fis@thurrock.gov.uk – web - <http://www.askthurrock.org.uk/kb5/thurrock/fis/home.page>

Secure emails note – Please note that from 1st March 2019 Thurrock will no longer use gcsx emails, moving to secure encryption on standard Thurrock email addresses. Emails containing gcsx will be updated on this form as soon as they are in place. **Sensitive information should not be sent to standard Thurrock emails until it is confirmed with Thurrock that this change has taken place.**

Yours faithfully

Rory Patterson - Corporate Director of Children's Services