

Seven Minute Briefing: Out of Area Processes



7MB – Out of Area Processes

7-minute briefings (7MB) are intended to be simple and quick to read, teams can use them within meetings as a team-based learning exercise.



Background

A Local Safeguarding Practice Review of child C20 was conducted by the authority in which he was normally resident. Child C20 was a looked after child (LAC) who was placed out of area (OOA) within a Stockport children's home. Whilst there, he was a victim of sexual abuse by another child, who was also resident at the home. Learning from the review identified the need for Stockport Children's Services to review their procedures to ensure they support compliance with GM Safeguarding Procedures for children placed in their authority by other local authorities with specific reference to holding strategy meetings as the host authority.

GM Safeguarding Procedures for Children Placed OOA

It is important that practitioners are **familiar with the safeguarding procedures within GM**. These can be found here:

https://www.proceduresonline.com/oldham/cs/chapters/p_out_area_place.html

https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/nw_proto_moving_la_boundaries.pdf

https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/nw_proto_sg_yp_local_auth.pdf

https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/cpp_moving_across_la_pro_b.pdf

Child Centred Practice

As practitioners we must **remain focused on the needs of the child** whether that child is resident in Stockport or is placed with us from out of area. As a result of learning from the review of C20, procedures within liquid logic have changed meaning that when information is received about an out of area child placed with us a MASSH enquiry is opened. Dependent on the information received, the MASSH may make contact with the locality footprint and other partners to ensure that a timely strategy discussion can take place. It is important to ensure that these take place with all relevant partners present so that all information can be shared. It may be necessary to delay a meeting whilst implementing other safeguarding measures to ensure the discussion is meaningful or it may be that a follow up strategy meeting might be needed as an outcome to the initial meeting if more information from others is required.

Seven Minute Briefing: Out of Area Processes



4

Our Role as Host Authority – Our Borough Our Business

As the host authority, in line with the 2021 amendments to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations, it is important that we understand the needs of the OOA CLA through effective planning, engagement and information sharing with services. This involves the presenting authority, receiving authority, placement and partners discussing what is known about the child to plan for the successful placement of the child. Whenever we get new information about the CLA, this is logged as a concern onto Liquid Logic and it is important as Host Authority that we investigate this and ensure that we are sharing this information with partner agencies and the Placing Local Authority, and the child's social worker as appropriate.



5

The Role of Partners

Partners across Stockport need to work together to ensure the safety of children placed in our Borough. It may be required that the locality footprint, GMP, Health Colleagues or other partners need to attend strategy discussions or other meetings in relation to the CLA and to share information with their counterparts within the placing authority. They may also need to contact the placing authority to gather additional information from them. Being able to act locally and share information geographically can ensure children placed in our area are safeguarded from harm.



6

The role of the Designated Officer (DO)

Whilst this case did not include the designated officer as the allegation was peer on peer abuse, it is useful to know **how to contact** the Designated Officer should there be **allegation of abuse made about staff or volunteers** working with children. You can find out more about the role of the Designation Officer and report alleged abuse here:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh/contacting-the-lado>



7

Peer on Peer Abuse

The incident in this case involved peer on peer sexual abuse. A form of abuse that can be harmful to the children who display it as well as those who experience it. We need to be aware of the signs to look out for to ensure we can **support children** experiencing or perpetrating this abuse as early as possible.

To read more on this topic visit:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/peer-on-peer-sexual-abuse>

<https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/children-and-young-people-with-harmful-sexual-behaviours-research-review-2014.pdf>

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/publications/2017/july/workforce-perspectives-on-harmful-sexual-behaviour-research-report-open-access/>