

Service:	Children and Young People's Services
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Manual:	Children in Need
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ACCOMMODATION (Children Act 1989, Section 20)

Local Authorities are required by legislation to provide accommodation for children who require it under s 20 of the Children Act.

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

This is a shorthand term for guidance contained within the 'Framework for the Assessment of children in need and their families'. This is national guidance published in 1999 setting out a detailed framework for achieving consistency and quality in assessments and planning for children in need.

CAF

The Common Assessment Framework. This follows a similar format to Initial and Core Assessments, but it is designed to be carried out by any professional, and is simple and straightforward to complete. The purpose of the CAF is to ensure that additional needs are identified and assessed at the earliest opportunity, so that when necessary services can be offered and coordinated. The ultimate aim is prevent problems becoming more serious through early intervention. It is a simple assessment to determine whether the child would benefit from a coordinated plan. If such is plan is necessary, a Lead Professional will be agreed, to coordinate the services offered by the 'Team around the child'.

CARE LEAVERS

Entitlement to Services under the Leaving Care Act 2000 extend to all young people who meet the criteria. (See DCC Young People's Services procedures)

CARE PROCEEDINGS

'Care Proceedings' refer to the Local Authority making an application for a Legal Order under the 1989 Children Act.

CARER

This is a general term for anyone looking after a child or young person. A carer can be a parent, a step parent, a relative, a private foster carer, or a foster carer

CHILD IN NEED

Under Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a Child in Need if:

- He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- He/she is disabled.

DISABLED CHILDREN

The Disabled Children and their Families Service' carries out specialist social care functions in relation to children who meet the criteria (see Eligibility Criteria).

CHILD SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

Children who are judged to be risk of continuing harm, and who have been the subject of a child protection conference, will have a child protection plan.

CHILD / YOUNG PERSON

A child or young person is aged up to 18 years with specific reference to the Children Act 1989. The general duties of Local Authority towards children and young people come to an end when the young person is 18. "Formerly Relevant" young adults under the Leaving Care Act 2000 receive support from the Young People's Service until the age of 21 (24 if in continuing education)

CORE ASSESSMENT

A detailed and in depth assessment carried out for children who may have highly complex needs. Children who have specific types of need, such as children who are Looked After, or who are the subject of a Child Protection plan, should always have a Core Assessment. Core Assessments use the format of the 'Assessment Framework'. Safeguarding and Specialist Services social workers have the lead responsibility, but other agencies need to actively contribute to the assessment to ensure positive outcomes. A core assessment should be completed within 35 working days.

DURHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The Durham LSCB is a statutory partnership which is responsible for ensuring effective interagency arrangements for safeguarding children.

ICS

Integrated Children's System. The electronic recording system for Children in Need used by Safeguarding and Specialist Services.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

A brief and holistic assessment which uses the Assessment Framework. Safeguarding and Specialist workers have lead responsibility for carrying out Initial Assessments. The purpose is to determine whether the child is a child in need, and if so whether the child is eligible for services. Initial Assessments should be completed within 7 working days of the referral.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT TEAM

This is a Children in Need Team with a specialist function. This team has a county wide remit. The team carries out Initial Assessments on children following a referral. If the Initial Assessment results in the child being defined as 'in need' the case is transferred to one of the CiN Teams.

INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Investing in Children is a multi agency initiative which aims to work in partnership with agencies and young people, to promote their interests and enhance their quality of life.

LOOKED AFTER

Looked After means a child/young person who is in the care of the local authority. Some children on a legal order living at home or with a close relative may be Looked After. There are technical and legal definitions; a looked after child can be accommodated 'voluntarily' or

under a legal order. The Local Authority has specific and extensive responsibilities for Looked after Children. (See DCC Looked After Procedures)

PERMANENCE

Children and young people require a sense of stability and permanence in order to feel secure and develop a positive identity. 'Permanence' is normally one of the aims of intervention for children in need. For children with disrupted relationships and families it is of particular significance.

PRIVATE FOSTERING

Children and young people sometimes live with a carer who is not a close relative. This could be a family friend, a neighbour, or a more distant relative. If this is likely to continue for more than 28 days then there is a legal requirement for the Local Authority to assess the suitability of the arrangement, and to keep in regular contact with the young person concerned.

REFERRAL

A referral is a request for an assessment or service. All referrals for children in need are received by Social Care Direct.

RISK TO CHILDREN

Adults convicted of certain offences are designated as a 'risk to children'. Adults who fall into this category who have close contact with children may be subject to action to ensure the safety of any children with whom they have contact.

SENIOR PRACTITIONER

A post within the Children in Need Team. The Senior Practitioner deputises for the Team manager when necessary, and has additional responsibilities compared with a social worker.

SOCIAL CARE DIRECT

Social Care Direct is a service provided by the Local Authority. The function of SCD is to respond to referrals by determining which ones can be resolved, and which need to be passed on for further action or assessment. Social Care Direct receives all referrals for Children's and Adults' social care services.

SSID

Social Services Information Database. This is a confidential computer held record which organises and stores information about children who are or have been involved with Children in Need services, including Disabled Children and Children in Need of safeguarding.

TEAM MANAGER

The Team Manager of a 'Children in Need' team has specific responsibilities in relation to Children in Need.

UNBORN CHILD

Unborn children can also be 'in need' and can be assessed and provided with services.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

The Young People's Service is a multi-agency service which provides the Leaving Care Service for DCC. It also provides the CiN service for young people age 16 (who have left school) and age 17.

