

# LAC Review Process, Information Leaflet for Parents

The term looked after away from home is used to describe when children are cared for out with their immediate family, this could be in kinship care, foster care, in a children's unit or residential school;.

## What is a looked after child (LAC) review?

A LAC review is a regular meeting held to consider, discuss, and make plans for your child whilst he or she is looked after away from home. You and your child will attend if he/she is old enough. The meeting brings together your child's carer, social worker, health visitor, nursery teacher/ school teacher, and looked after nurse. Other professionals who may be invited include addictions workers, mental health workers, and support workers etc.

It is an opportunity to:

- Review your child's care plan (care plans set out how your child will be cared for whilst they are looked after)
- Discuss your child's progress
- Discuss your child's relationships, health, education, hobbies and interests.
- Discuss problems you or your family are facing, how these can be resolved, and the progress being made to resolve these. This will determine the timescales for your child returning home.
- Make plans for the future

A planning meeting will be held **within 72 hours** of your child becoming looked after away from home. This meeting will consider the care plan

for your child, making any necessary immediate arrangements for contact or how your child will get to school/nursery etc.

**Only if** your child has remained looked after away from home, will a further LAC review take place **within 6 weeks** of your child having become accommodated. This is often referred to as the 6 week LAC Review.

**Only if** your child has remained looked after away from home, will a further LAC review take place **within 19 weeks** of your child having become accommodated. This is often referred to as a 3 month LAC Review.

**Only if** your child has remained looked after away from home, will a further LAC review take place **within 39 weeks** of your child having become accommodated. This review is called a Pre Permanency Review, and will consider the long term plan for your child. This review will discuss whether there is sufficient evidence to inform that your child returning to your care is not going to be achievable. What other family options have been considered and the best option for your child's future permanent care.

**Only if** your child has remained looked after away from home, will a further LAC review take place **within 52 weeks** of your child having become accommodated (a further 3 months). This review will be to ensure that plans towards a return home are progressing or alternatively if they were any outstanding tasks from the previous review that these have now been completed.

Afterwards, reviews will be held every six months.

Dates for all of the above reviews will be arranged upon your child becoming looked after away from home in order to ensure they take place within the agreed timescales. Upon your child returning to your care, the remaining dates will be cancelled.