

Post-ILACS Action Plan

Following Inspection - 28 February to 4 March 2022

No.	Issue raised by Ofsted	Outcome	Action	Responsible AD / Head of Service	By when	Reported to
Page 15 1	The quality of work with some children by out-of-hours staff when children need to come into care.	Children who are placed into care out of hours receive a high-quality service	a) Meet with leads for out of hours service delivery and commissioning to agree principles of placing children in care out of hours and plans for monitoring meetings and updated guidance.	Director of Children's Services / Assistant Director for Children's Social Care & Youth Inclusion	May 2022 (complete)	Children, School & Families (CSF) Departmental Management Team
			b) Re-issue updated guidance on expectations for when children are placed in an emergency out of hours.	Head of Family Assessment and Intervention	Initial comms – May 2022 (complete) Formal guidance - October 2022	CSF Departmental Management Team
			c) Ensure monitoring of children's cases (performance data and case file audits) via out of hours service meetings with Sutton and other LAs and ad hoc as necessary between meetings.	Head of Family Assessment and Intervention	July 2022 (in place)	CSF Departmental Management Team
		Ensure robust commissioning arrangements for out of hours service, including reviewing options for ensuring children are placed into care out of hours with a social-work qualified worker present.	d) Review out of hours contract with Sutton and ensure robust contract monitoring in place to oversee service quality and take timely action in response to any issues.	Children's Commissioning Manager / Head of Family Assessment and Intervention	September 2022	CSF Departmental Management Team
		e) Review arrangements with third party providers of out of hours social care services.	Children's Commissioning Manager / Head of Family Assessment and Intervention	September 2022	CSF Departmental Management Team	

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		Robust and proportionate partnership response to safeguarding children out of hours.	f) Review out of hours arrangements with local Child Abuse Investigation Team and Borough Command Unit.	Head of Family Assessment and Intervention	September 2022	Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership
Page 16 2	A flexible needs-led housing offer when young people leave care.	All care experienced young adults are able to access accommodation which meets their needs when they leave care.	a) Establish Joint Housing Panel to ensure joint working around housing offers, which also addresses any unsuitable offers for care leavers	Head of Corporate Parenting / Head of Housing and Strategy	May 2022 (complete)	CSF Departmental Management Team / Community & Housing (C&H) Departmental Management Team
			b) Establish a framework for providers of accommodation and support for care experienced young adults.	Head of Corporate Parenting	November 2022	CSF Departmental Management Team / CSF and C&H Joint Transformation Board
			c) Create in-house Semi-Independent accommodation offer for care leavers.	Head of Corporate Parenting	May 2023	CSF Departmental Management Team / CSF and C&H Joint Transformation Board
			d) Review Merton's housing offer for care leavers.	Head of Corporate Parenting / Head of Housing and Strategy	November 2022	CSF and C&H Joint Transformation Board / Corporate Parenting Board

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Glossary

CSF	Children, School & Families (Directorate)
C&H	Community & Housing (Directorate, includes Adult Social Care)
CSF Directorate Management Team	Weekly meeting chaired by Director of Children's Services and attended by Assistant Directors within CSF.
CSF and C&H Joint Transformation Board	Monthly meeting between CSF and C&H Directorates, providing strategic oversight of joint priorities and projects. Co-chaired by Director of CSF and Director of C&H, attended by Assistant Directors & Heads of Service in both Directorates.
Corporate Parenting Board	Chaired by Chief Executive, attended by lead council members, the council's Corporate Management Team (all Directors), Assistant Directors in CSF and C&H, and relevant Heads of Service.

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