



Services for Children, Young People and Families

CHILDREN IN CARE **Children's Homes**

Children Leaving the Home **Discharge**

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Discharge

Discharge

Children and Young people when leaving the home, whether to another children's home, return to family, independence or foster placement it is important that they are helped to understand the transition.

Recording

- 1) The discharge of a young person must be entered into the discharge book held at the home.
- 2) When discharged the files held at the unit must be returned to the Field Social Worker if the child case remains open to CYPS. If the case is closed the file must be sent for storage.
- 3) If the young person is moving to another children's home or foster placement the child's risk assessment must be transferred.

Planned Discharge

- 1) A discharge meeting must take place prior to discharge.
- 2) All people included in the plans of working with the child must be informed of the discharge.
- 3) An agreed date of discharge to be set.
- 4) Any agencies planning to work with the child or family following discharge must be informed of the discharge date.
- 5) If leaving to move on to independence living the home is to make the relevant contribution to the Pathway Plan. The home implements any aspects of the Pathway Plan, which is the responsibility of the home.
- 6) When leaving the home the child should be offered support with packing their belongings and suitable luggage must be available.

Unplanned Discharge

A child who is accommodated can be removed from accommodation at any time by a person with Parental Responsibility unless another person has a Residence Order in respect to the child:

- There is a legal order which prevents them from doing so.
- The child is sixteen years or over and does not wish to leave accommodation.

In circumstances where a child's removal from the home is not part of their plan, the child's social worker/ emergency duty social worker must be informed. The Placements Manager and Registered Manager of the home should be contacted immediately.

If there is concern that the child's removal may result in the child suffering significant harm the Local Authority may wish to take legal action or involve the police.