**Management / Practice Guidance Note**

The Legal Framework

The legal framework for ceasing a child/young person who is accommodated under section 20 is governed by the Arrangements for Placement of Children Regulations 1991, and the [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations, 2015](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441643/Children_Act_Guidance_2015.pdf) and [Volume 3 of the transitions to adulthood and for care leavers](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf).

Where a child has been looked-after for at least 20 working days, the decision to cease to look after her/him must not be put into effect until it has been approved by a nominated officer, this being the operational head of service [regulation 39(4)].

Some children will be looked-after for very short periods as part of a family support package, for example due to a family crisis or parental illness. While it will not be necessary to seek nominated officer approval to cease to look after a child in these circumstances, the authority must be satisfied that this is in the child’s best interests and that the proposed arrangements will safeguard and promote the child’s welfare

Where the local authority are considering ceasing to look after a child aged 16 or 17 years, who has been accommodated under section 20 of the 1989 Act, this decision must not be put into effect until it has been approved by the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) [regulation 39(5)].

Before granting this approval the nominated officer or director of children’s services must be satisfied that:

* The child’s wishes and feelings have been ascertained and given due consideration;
* The decision to cease to look after the child will safeguard and promote their welfare;
* The IRO has been informed and consulted; and
* Where the child is an eligible child the appropriate requirements have been met [regulations 40 – 44[[1]](#footnote-1)].

**Director of Children’s Services (DCS) Approval:**

**Proposal to cease looking after a 16/17yr old who has been accommodated under Section 20**

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| SECTION A - CHILD/YOUNG PERSON’S DETAILS |
| Name of Young Person: | Click here to enter text. |
| Date of Birth: | Click here to enter text. |
| Gender (please tick): | Male [ ]  | Female [ ]  |
| Legal Status: | Choose an item. |
| Liquid Logic Number: | Click here to enter text. |
| Date young person became looked after: | Click here to enter text. |
| Will they become a Relevant young person under The Children Leaving Care Act or a young person in need when they cease to be accommodated? | Choose an item. |
| Social Worker Name: | Click here to enter text. |
| Team Manager Name: | Click here to enter text. |
| Social Work Team: | Choose an item. |

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| SECTION B - PLACEMENT HISTORY *(please add more rows as appropriate)* |
| START DATE | **END DATE** | **PLACEMENT TYPE** | **LOCATION** | **REASON FOR END** |
| Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |
| Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |
| Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |

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| SECTION C – ASSESSMENT & PLANNING |
| What is the completion date of the most recent Single Assessment? | Click here to enter text. |
| Has the latest assessment of need informed the proposed Pathway/YP in Need Plan? | Click here to enter text. |
| What is the aim of the Plan? | Choose an item. |
| Has a Family Group Conference been convened? | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |
| If not, please explain the rationale? | Click here to enter text. |

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| SECTION D - PLACEMENT APPROPRIATENESS  |
| How will the Young Person in Need/Pathway Plan support a successful return home to parent/s or transition into independence?*(Include how needs will be met regarding health, education/employment/training, financial support, development of practical skills, support to prevent isolation etc.)*Please attach the young person’s in need/pathway plan with this form.  | Click here to enter text. |
| Child’s wishes and feelings regarding the placement: | Click here to enter text. |
| Parent / those with PR views regarding this placement: | Click here to enter text. |
| Is there anything additional the Social Worker would like to add? | Click here to enter text. |
| Name of IRO: | Click here to enter text. |
| Please summarise the IRO’s views either in support of, or against this move and state whether a Statutory Review has ratified the plan: | Click here to enter text. |

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| SECTION E - APPROVAL AND AGREEMENT  |
| Team Manager Name: |  | **Date:** |  |
| Team Manager Signature: |  |
| Head of Service Name: |  | **Date:** |  |
| Comments: |  |
| Head of Service Signature: |  |
| Strategic Lead for Children in Care Name: |  | **Date:** |  |
| Comments: |  |
| Strategic Lead for Children in Care Signature: |  |
| Director of Children’s Services Name: |  | **Date:** |  |
| Director of Children’s Services Signature: |  |

1. an ‘eligible child’ (defined in paragraph 19B of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Act, and in regulation 40 of the 2010 Regulations) is a looked after child aged 16 or 17, who has been looked after for a total of at least 13 weeks which began after s/he reached the age of 14, and ends after s/he reaches the age of 16; [↑](#footnote-ref-1)