Children’s Services LAC Placement Coding Practice Guidance

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This practice guidance must be read in conjunction with the LAC Placement Stability strategy

**Definition**

Placement stability is defined as “the % of LAC at the reporting date with 3 or more placement moves during the last 12 months.”

**Instructions for Allocated Case Worker**

* No placement move will be agreed unless a Head of Service approves it.  Therefore, if a placement move is being requested you will be expected to provide a rationale to a Head of Service.  Family Placement will not identify an alternative placement unless it has been authorised.  A placement move tracker is being developed to ensure oversight of this performance.
* All placement moves (once agreed) must be coded correctly on Liquid Logic.  if anyone is in doubt regarding the correct code or the code needed is not available on Liquid Logic, this must be flagged immediately.  Incorrect codes must not be inputted simply as a consequence of the correct code being unavailable.
* All placements that are becoming fragile must have a multi-agency planning meeting to develop a wrap-around package of support to avoid breakdown.
* In situations where placements have broken down, disruption meetings must be organised in order for learning to be taken forward.  There is a disruption policy available.
* In cases where a foster care allegation has been made and it is appropriate for the LAC to be placed in another placement once approved, the  subsequent placement must be able to accommodate the child in the following months and not just a week or two.  The deep dive analysis has shown that none of our LAC were subsequently returned to their previous carers.

**Instructions for Managers**

* Managers should check the placement codes of all LAC cases and ensure they are correct. Advice on placement coding can be sought from the Performance Team
* Incorrect codes should immediately be flagged with the Performance Team, and the code should be changed immediately. It is advisable to flag this coding error to your Head of Service/ Service Manager.