

**CWM TAF
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD**

**GUIDANCE ON VISITS TO CHILDREN IN
LONG TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE
(REGULATIONS 2011)**

Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board	Date: December 2014	Status: Endorsed Final Version
Author:	Page 1 of 3	Review Date: December 2017

Introduction

Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Childrens Services have a duty under the 'Guidance on Visits to Children in Long Term Residential Care Regulations 2011 to ensure the welfare of such children* is safeguarded and promoted. (See *Regulations at appendix 1*)

The provisions require the local authority to:

- *visit these vulnerable children; maintain contact; and intervene when there is any significant change in the child's circumstances; and*
- *offer a tailored package of services suitable to meet the child's needs, in particular to support the continuing active involvement of parents in their child's life.*

This statutory guidance refers to children who are **not looked after** and placed in health, education or other establishments for consecutive periods of three months or more.

Scope

This guidance applies when a child is provided with accommodation for a consecutive period of at least three months or when there is an intention to provide accommodation for at least that period.

The consecutive three month period would not be broken if during that period the child were to visit their family for the occasional weekend. However if the child or young person were to visit family for example during school holidays and/or half term then the consecutive three month period would be broken and the guidance would **not** apply.

It 's scope is children provided with accommodation by health bodies (Local Health Boards in Wales and Primary Care Trusts in England) or local authorities acting in the exercise of their education functions. It applies in respect of children provided with accommodation in care homes, residential schools or independent hospitals, including hospices. The guidance requires notification of such placements to be made to the Local Authority

Responsibilities of Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTUHB), Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Education Services

To ensure notification is made in accordance with the requirements of guidance to the Children's Services SPOC using the proforma contained in the guidance at *appendix 1*. This applies to all children placed inside or outside the County Boroughs.

CTUHB should include notifications for children placed in hospitals or hospices in other LHB or Primary Care Trust areas if known.

Process

Children within RCT and MT who fall within the scope of this guidance should be identified at either Multi Agency Placement Panel (MAPP) or Special Education Needs Panel (SEN) or Clearing in MT. Occasionally young people who attend specialist College will be identified through Careers Wales.

RCT Children's Services Performance Information Officer will act as the single point of contact (SPOC) for all notifications of children and young people who meet the above scope. Secure email Nicola..Free@rctcbc.gcsx.gov.uk
Address Level 9 Ty Pennant Catherine Street Pontypridd CF37 2TB .

MT Safeguarding Unit will act as the single point of contact (SPOC) for all notifications of children and young people who meet the above scope. Secure email safeguarding@merthyr.gcsx.gov.uk **Address Safeguarding Unit, Unit 5 Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 8TQ**

The SPOC will take responsibility for entering the child on the electronic information system appropriately coded and for informing the relevant Children's Services Team.

Responsibilities of Children's Services

The Team Manager will be responsible for case allocation whilst the social worker, assessor care manager (or equivalent) involved will ensure visits are carried out in accordance with the frequency, requirements and functions contained within the guidance. These visits should be recorded noting they are being completed to meet the requirements of this specific guidance.

There is no necessity to carry out statutory reviews set out within the guidance. However RCT and MT Children's Services has decided given that these are likely to be some of the most vulnerable children; reviews should take place at a minimum of every 6 months. An Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) can be appointed if consent is obtained from parents by the allocated worker.

In these circumstances contact should be made with the Reviewing Team, Manager to arrange an IRO in RCT, and the Safeguarding Unit in MT.

*** Child is used throughout to mean children and young people**