

Children moving across Local Authority boundaries



Background

Children and families who move most frequently between local authorities can be homeless families, asylum seekers and refugees, families experiencing domestic violence, travelling families and, looked after children. It is also important to recognise that some families will move between authorities to avoid or divert professional contact where safeguarding or child protection concerns have been identified.

Where can I find further information?

[West Midlands Regional Safeguarding Network – Protecting children who move across Local Authority borders](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

Why it matters?

Frequent movers can find it difficult to access the safe, reliable and consistent delivery of service they need. For those already socially excluded, moving frequently can worsen the effects of their exclusion and increase the vulnerability of the children. When families move more frequently it is more difficult for agencies to identify risk and monitor a child's welfare.

What are the safeguarding responsibilities?

The Protecting children who move across Local Authority borders guidance provides a framework specifically on safeguarding responsibilities in relation to children who move across LA boundaries. The guidance sets out the responsibilities of the home and host authority for children who are subject to child protection or child in need plans and who are currently looked after.

What indicators should cause concern?

- The child and family are not registered with a G.P
- The child not having a school place or whose attendance is irregular
- The child or family not having a fixed abode
- Several agencies holding information about the child/ family which is not coordinated

- Notify the local authority and other agencies where the child was living when subject to CP and CIC, but also good practice to do this for children on CIN and EH plans (with consent)
- Be proactive in sharing all information (incl historic information) as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns
- Be professionally curious and alert that some families may have moved to divert professional contact where a safeguarding concern has been identified

What should I do if a child/ family have recently moved into the Local Authority?

Be alert to the possibility that a child or family who has moved may not be in receipt of universal services. Engage with the family in order to link them into local universal services; and seek information e.g. full names, dates of birth, previous address, GP's and the Health Visitor's name and if the child is attending any school.