



**ASSOCIATION OF
DIRECTORS OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

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FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

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Dear Director

NATIONAL PROTOCOL – INTER-AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARE LEAVERS

Please find attached the National Inter-Authority Protocol concerning children leaving care who are subject to the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and who move between authorities. This protocol has been agreed between ADSS and DfES and is published subject to Section 7 guidance.

The Protocol seeks to achieve a number of things including:

- To re-assert the role of the responsible authority in retaining responsibility for the care and support provided to care leavers in accordance with Section 23a of the Act.
- To confirm the role of receiving authorities in the provision of emergency support for care leavers who arrive in their area in an unplanned way.
- To establish a process for authorities to negotiate between each other in planning for young people who move between areas and ensuring at the very least a basic level of minimum support for those young people.
- To clarify the various financial responsibilities including those circumstances where it might be legitimate for a receiving authority to, where necessary, charge for the support it provides to care leavers from other authorities.
- To establish a mechanism to negotiate disputes where they occur.
- To establish a process to review the effectiveness of the Protocol after its first year in operation.

This Protocol has been subject to prolonged negotiation including a range of stakeholders who are supporting the implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The application of this Protocol should not place additional pressures upon authorities which are already properly implementing the Act. However, in introducing the Protocol locally it is suggested that Directors take the following steps:

- Confirm through respective line managers that local leaving care services are consistent with the minimum expectations outlined within the Protocol;
- Confirm that your authority has registered an appropriate manager as the named person notified to the DfES responsible for monitoring the local implementation of the Protocol;
- Ensure that systems are in place to monitor care leavers from your own authority for whom support is required from another authority and care leavers from other authorities for whom support is required from your authority.

This information will assist in our review of this protocol next year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Coughlan', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Coughlan
Co-Chair – ADSS Children & Families Committee