

Appendix 1

Kent County Council Sufficiency Strategy – Changes in Regulations

1. Following a formal consultation in the summer 2013, from the 27th January 2014 the Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 came into effect.
 - A decision to place a child 'out of area' must be approved by the nominated officer and not be put into effect until it has been approved by the Director of Children's Services. The authority where the child is to be placed must be consulted and receive a copy of the child's care plan.
 - Children's homes are now required to provide information about all out of authority placements that are resident in their homes, notifying host authorities when a new out of authority placement occurs or a child leaves placement.
 - Regulation 16: All children's homes now have to have a 'Missing Child policy'. Homes should take into account the views of appropriate local services and have regard for relevant Local Authority policies and procedures.
 - Regulation 31: Fitness of Premises. All premises should be appropriately and suitably located (subject to annual review) so that children can be effectively safeguarded.

2. Regulations that came into force on the 1st April 2014 include:
 - Regulation 33: Children's homes will be visited by an independent person, subsequent regulation 33 reports will be sent to each authority with a child in the home.
 - Regulation 4: A homes' statement of purpose is required to be published on an organisations' website and provide more detail around the care of a child than previously required.
 - Care Standards Act 2000: The schedule has been amended to require that any applicants who wish to register a new children's home must describe the steps they have taken to ensure the home is appropriately and suitably located.

3. Children and Families Act 2014

A wide ranging piece of legislation that covers a number of areas including:

 - Staying Put: New regulations have been put in place relating to a young person's status when in care and reaching their 18th birthday. Known as '18 or older' or 'Staying Put' arrangements, they entitle a young person to remain with their carer until they are 21years old

- The new act has enshrined the 26 week time limit on care proceedings in law and also taken action to speed the process of adoption.
- Education, Health and Care plans: replacing the statement of education needs, these plans are to be regularly reviewed providing better opportunity for families to be engaged in the decision making process around the care of their child
- Local Authorities must now provide a 'Local Offer', giving details of services available to children and young people with disabilities or special educational needs.