

## Annex 2. Out of Area Placements Protocol

### **Definition of a child within a vulnerable family who should not be moved**

This list of criteria is in reference to children and families who are moved **only** due to their housing need and not those being moved to be made safer. If moving a child and their family to increase safety, consideration should be given to how the family would a) be able to maintain contact links with essential support from their existing network and b) whether greater distance should be placed between the originating authority and the new home, or whether proximity to transport links could be unsafe i.e. to continue gang activity via the railway/ tube network, or for sexual exploitation.

- **Any child where there is clear evidence that moving them away from an existing support network may place them directly at risk of harm, or may increase their vulnerability leading to an increased likelihood of future harm.** This includes young people who, if moved, are likely to become more vulnerable to criminal or sexual exploitation.
- **Families who are experiencing domestic abuse.** Whilst it may be necessary to move a family away from a perpetrator, where a family is not being moved for this reason, they are often safer if they can remain linked to their local support network.
- **Children with a significant disability** who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are accessing a package of funded support, specialist school placement, hospice or specialist complex healthcare.
- **Children who are subject of a Child Protection plan.**
- **Cases where the current CIN plan is to escalate** to Child Protection, Public Law Outline or Application to Family Court
- **Parent accessing specialist mental health services** especially those recently discharged from hospital or Section.
- **Parent with a significant disability or serious physical health condition** that requires frequent hospitalisation or treatment
- **Parent in receipt of funded treatment programme** i.e. detoxification/rehabilitation from substance misuse, for which any move should be delayed until treatment is complete.