

Appendix 1: Children's Social Care Placements Working Group

Purpose

The working group will bring together one councillor from each political group to consider the issue of placements for children in care. The group will:

- Consider existing evidence in relation to the provision and sufficiency of placements
- Identify new proposals to support councils to improve the sufficiency of placements, which may include new calls on the Government or new forms of support for councils
- Help to identify good practice to share with councils.

Terms of Reference

- The focus of this working group is on the sufficiency and cost of placements for all children in care, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This includes foster care, residential children's homes and secure children's homes.
- Accommodation for care leavers, respite care and placements in special schools are outside of the scope of this working group, though the group may consider the impact of pressure in these placements on sufficiency of placements for children in care.
- The working group will not consider in detail the regulatory framework or the inspection of children's social care placements, though it may consider the impact of these on sufficiency and cost.
- Members of the working group will consult with their own political groups and draw on their own experience to inform group discussions and recommendations.

Governance

- The working group will elect a chair at its first meeting who will lead reports back to the Children and Young People Board.
- Members may send substitutes to working group meetings. These should be members of the Children and Young People Board (including substitutes) to ensure a clear link between the group and the board.
- Any recommendations should be agreed by all members of the working group.
- All recommendations made by the group will be submitted to the Children and Young People Board for approval prior to being adopted as LGA policy.
- Where swift agreement is needed on recommendations developed by the working group, these will be agreed through the Children and Young People Board Lead Members, in line with normal process.

Operation

- The working group will meet virtually for meetings of no more than 90 minutes. The group will meet bi-monthly, with the option for additional meetings where required and agreed by the chair.
- Work will also be carried out via email in between meetings.
- The working group will operate until the final meeting of the Children and Young People Board in the 2022/23 board cycle, which will take place on 27 June 2023. The group may cease prior to this if appropriate and by agreement of all members of the working group.
- The working group will be supported by a Senior Adviser within the Children, Welfare, Equalities and Democracy team.