

# Out of Area and Cross Border Placements for Children

‘Raising Our Children: the Future of Residential Care’  
Exchange Autumn Conference

Cardiff City Hall 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

# Developing Practice Guidance

- Aims
- Purpose
- Scope
- Focus
- Who is it for?
- Timescale

# Methodology

- Engagement - wide range of stakeholders
- Reviewing available data on children's home services and placements
- Comparing Welsh and English guidance, regulations and codes of practice
- Drawing on relevant research, inspection reports, etc.

# Children's Home Services and Places in Wales

## Children's Homes Services and Places Regulated by Care Inspectorate Wales

	31.3.13	31.3.14	31.3.15	31.3.16	31.3.17	31.3.18	% change 2013-2018
Services	125	129	135	144	149	159	27%
Places	578	595	597	637	670	729	26%

**Source:** Services and Places Regulated by CIW. NB This data includes 'a range of services from traditional care homes for looked after children, specialist placements for up to 52 weeks and respite services for children with a range of disabilities'. It includes provision for short breaks but excludes Residential Special Schools.

# Children Looked After by Placement Type (a)

	31.3.13	31.3.14	31.3.15	31.3.16	31.3.17	31.3.18
<b>Local Authority 'homes'</b>	205	220	225	230	240	?
<b>Private and Voluntary registered 'homes'</b>	25	30	20	20	40	?
<b>Total</b>	230	250	245	250	280	?
<b>All children looked after</b>	5765	5745	5615	5665	5955	?

(a) Excludes short breaks

Source: Stats Wales – Children Looked After by Local Authority and Placement Type (accessed 12.11.18)

# Strategy – Planning and Commissioning

- Professional practice needs to be supported by effective national, regional and local strategic frameworks e.g.:
  - The ‘Sufficiency duty’
  - Importance of regional and sub-regional collaboration
  - Location – provider responsibilities

# Practice

- General principles – duty to safeguard, promote wellbeing, advocacy
- Why is location important?
- When might an out of area placement be appropriate?
- ‘A thorough assessment’ – what should it look like?
- Pre-placement planning, placement panels and decision-making
- Agency notifications and information sharing
- Emergency placements
- Cross border issues

# Discussion

- Current arrangements – how are they working?
- Examples of good practice?
- What needs to be improved?
- How might we achieve that?

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