

06 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' procedures

**06.08 Looked after children**

**Identification.**

A 'Looked after Child' is a child in public care, who is placed with foster carers, in a residential home or with parents/carers or other relatives.

**Services provided to Looked After Children - all ages**

* Places are offered in line with our admissions policy.
* Places will be offered to children who are looked after; where the placement in the setting will normally last a minimum of six weeks.
* If a child who attends a setting is taken into care and is cared for by a local carer the place will continue to be made available to the child.

**Additional Support**

* The designated safeguarding lead and key person at the Early Explorers Community Pre-Schools setting will liaise with agencies and professionals involved with the child, and their family, and ensure appropriate information is gained and shared.
* A meeting of professionals involved with the child is convened by the setting at the start of a placement. A Personal Education Plan (PEP) for children over 3 years old is put in place within 10 days of the child becoming looked after.
* Following this meeting, a Care plan for looked after children form is completed (form 6.08a can be used). The care plan is reviewed after two weeks, six weeks, three months, and thereafter at three to six monthly intervals.
* The Early Explorers Community Pre-Schools setting will have regular contact with the social worker and this will be maintained through planned meetings, which will include contribution to the PEP which is reviewed annually.