

# Children moving across Local Authority boundaries

## Practitioner Briefing

### Introduction

Children, young people and families who move most frequently between local authorities can be homeless families, asylum seekers and refugees, families experiencing domestic violence, travelling families and looked after children. It is also important to recognise that some families will move between authorities to avoid or divert practitioner contact where safeguarding or child protection concerns have been identified.

### Why it matters

Frequent movers can find it difficult to access the safe, reliable and consistent delivery of service they need. For those already socially excluded, moving frequently can worsen the effects of their exclusion and increase the vulnerability of the children. When families move more frequently it is more difficult for agencies to identify risk and monitor a child's welfare.

### What indicators should cause concern?

- ✓ Children/young people and family are not registered with a G.P
- ✓ Children/young people not having a school place or whose attendance is irregular
- ✓ Children/young people and their family not having a fixed abode
- ✓ Several agencies holding information about the child/young person/family which is not coordinated

### What should I do if a child/young person/ family have recently moved into the Local Authority?

Be alert to the possibility that a child/young person or family who has moved may not be in receipt of universal services. Engage with the family to link them into local universal services; and seek information e.g. full names, dates of birth, previous address, GP's and the Health Visitor's name and if the child/young person is attending any school.

- Notify the local authority and other agencies where the child/young person was living when subject to Child Protection and Child Looked After, but also good practice to do this for those on a Child in Need and Early Help plans (with consent)
- Be proactive in sharing all information (including historic information) as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns. (Visit our [Pan Beds Procedures](#) if you feel unsure about information sharing).
- Be professionally curious and alert that some families may have moved to divert practitioner contact where a safeguarding concern has been identified.

### What are the safeguarding responsibilities?

The Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries guidance provides a framework specifically on safeguarding responsibilities in relation to children who move across LA boundaries. The guidance sets out the responsibilities of the home and host authority for children/young people who are subject to child protection or child in need plans and who are currently looked after.

### Where can I find further information?

[Working Together to Safeguarding Children](#)

[Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Children Protection Procedures](#)