



Running Deer Intervention Services

Children in Care and Young Carers Policy

Date: 28/04/2026 Review date: 01/04/2027

Children in Care

Definitions

Children in Care (CiC) or Looked After Children (LAC) or refers to a child 'looked after by a local authority' as outlined by section 22 Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

CiC/LAC are children who are in the care of the Local Authority for more than 24 hours and include children who are:

- living with foster parents/carers
- living in a residential children's home or
- living in residential settings like schools or secure units

Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) refers to children who are

'...no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any persons, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales,'

Statement

At Running Deer Intervention Services, we acknowledge that CiC/LAC will have experienced disrupted schooling and gaps in learning. In addition, a significant proportion of CiC/LAC and PLAC have some form of Special Educational Need and or have been excluded from school. This has resulted in the attainment of this group not being in line with the attainment of their peers nationally.

Running Deer Intervention Services aims to support our CiC/LAC and PLAC by:

- providing a safe environment for all CiC/LAC and PLAC, where their educational experience is valued, high aspirations are encouraged and belief in the potential of all children is held.
- ensuring that all CiC/LAC and PLAC are provided with, and have access to, support to enable them to have every opportunity to enjoy, learn and achieve in line with their peers.

- ensuring that CiC/LAC and PLAC have access to alternative education appropriate to their age, strengths and needs
- liaising with carers, parents (as appropriate), Virtual School and social workers on a wide variety of educational and care issues and supporting all PEPs (Personal Education Plans) for children currently in care
- providing relevant child protection and disability information shared if appropriate (if not appropriate to share, indicate the confidential nature of the information) with the Safeguarding Officer and Local Authority's Education Safeguarding team and Single Central Referral Unit
- sharing relevant health information with referring agencies
- ensuring all staff are supported in recognising and meeting the needs of CiC/LAC and PLAC
- ensuring that all staff are trained on Trauma & Attachment
- ensuring all staff are aware of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups and their propensity towards being both the victims and perpetrator of Criminal and Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse
- ensuring that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about CiC/LAC and PLAC

Young Carers

Definitions

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone who could not cope without their support. They may have whole or shared responsibility for looking after a sibling, parent, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member and / or may have a disability themselves.

A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:

- practical tasks such as cooking, housework, shopping.
- physical care such as lifting, helping up the stairs and physiotherapy.
- personal care such as dressing, washing and helping someone go to the toilet.
- emotional support such as listening, calming someone and being present.
- household management such as paying the bills, managing finances and collecting benefits.
- looking after siblings such as putting to bed and walking to school.
- interpreting for parents who are deaf, or who have speech, language and communication needs, or English as an additional language.
- administering medication such as insulin injections and preparing daily tablets.

Statement

Running Deer Intervention Services are committed to:

- promoting the education and welfare of young carers
- ensuring that young carers have a voice in issues relating to their education
- challenging negative stereotyping and promoting inclusion
- targeting support appropriately
- ensuring appropriate level of support for parents and carers.

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of their education.

We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and support any child or young person who helps to look after someone at home.

We aim to support young carers through a holistic approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

Running Deer Intervention Services view young carers in the same way as any other child but understand that they have the additional burden of caring responsibilities and will consult with the family of the child or young person, or the young person themselves, along with referring agencies to understand the nature of these responsibilities and how they may impact on their life to enable appropriate and structured support to be offered.

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