Guidance for care services for looked after and accommodated children and young people who need ongoing support as young adults

Publication date: September 2017
At the Care Inspectorate, we are committed to working with care services to get the best possible outcomes for all children. We know that looked after and accommodated children are particularly vulnerable as they move from care into early adulthood. We are keen to be as flexible as possible with innovative care services that support the transition out of care.

**Background**

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the different categories of services that must be registered with the Care Inspectorate. These include services for children and young people who are looked after and accommodated in the following service types.

- Care homes
- School care accommodation
- Secure accommodation
- Fostering
- Adoption

There are other service types that may also support young people over the age of 16 years, each of which must be registered.

- Housing support
- Support service
- Adult placement
- Offender accommodation

There are certain types of care service that cannot by law continue to care for young people when the young person reaches a specific age, or if the young person no longer meets the criteria for being accommodated in that service type. These include:

- secure accommodation, where no one can be accommodated on reaching their eighteenth birthday or if they no longer meet the criteria for secure care
- school care accommodation, where no one can be accommodated if they are no longer attending school
- foster care, where the young person ceases to be a looked after child
- care homes, which may have a restriction placed on the age range of children and young people that can be looked after.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places responsibility on the Care Inspectorate and other bodies to be corporate parents. We have identified ways in which we can fulfil this responsibility, particularly around the category of continuing care as set out in part 11 of the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014.

- We have increased the age range for children and young living in a care home to age 21 years to support continuing care.
• We have identified that foster agencies which support young people to remain with their foster family on a continuing care basis can apply at no cost to also register an adult placement service. Both services will be combined, with one inspection and one rate of continuation fee. You can find our policy on adult placement in the appendix at the end of this document.

Options that providers can consider

We strongly suggest that providers ask us for advice at an early stage of developing their service. We are committed to supporting diversity and the development of services that will provide good outcomes for children and young people. However, we must do this within the parameters of relevant legislation.

There are examples of very good innovative and diverse service provision that have developed over many years to support young people in transition. These include:

• providers of school care accommodation also registering to provide other service types, such as care home and housing support services to provide transitional and through-care services
• care homes developing their service and separately registering an outreach service as housing support and/or a support service, depending on needs of young people
• care homes including in their registration a satellite flat to support young people in transition from the care home, or who need crisis support, to come back for a short time
• providers of secure accommodation developing care home and/or school care accommodation for young people who no longer need secure care but who do need ongoing, stable, support relationships and care planning

Important points to consider

It is a legal requirement to register a service with the Care Inspectorate and this should be considered when trialling any new venture. It can take up to six months to register a new service, so contacting us early is crucial.

There is a registration fee and an annual fee to pay for each registration of a different service type, details of which are published online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com). Services provided together, for example housing support and support services, can be assessed for a combined service discount (see our fee information on our website).

For more information, please contact alison.jamieson@careinspectorate.com

September 2017
Policy statement and guidance for Care Inspectorate staff: adult placement services

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This is the first version of this document
Policy statement and guidance for Care Inspectorate staff: adult placement services

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Section 1: Introduction and legal definition

We believe adult placement services can provide excellent person-led and compassionate care by offering family based services to adults within our communities.

People who use these services tell us that they experience support, which protects and promotes their rights and choices and enables a feeling of belonging. This gives them the confidence to achieve their goals.

The definition of an adult placement service is set out in schedule 12 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 as follows.

“An adult placement service is a service which consists of, or includes, arranging for the provision of accommodation for an adult (that is to say for a person who has attained the age of sixteen years), together with:
(a) personal care
(b) personal support
(c) counselling, or other help, provided other than as part of a planned programme of care, by reason of the person’s vulnerability or need, by placing the person with a family or individual; but a service may be excepted from this definition by regulations.

“Personal care means care which relates to the day to day physical tasks and needs of the person cared for (for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to eating and washing) and to mental processes related to those tasks and needs (for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to remembering to eat and wash).

“Personal support means counselling, or other help, provided as part of a planned programme of care.”

This policy takes account of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, in particular Part 11 – Continuing Care and Part 9 – Corporate Parenting.
Section 2: Policy statement

The policy below sets out two models of adult placement service, which meet the needs of people who use them.

1. **Adult placement service** - this is a service for adults aged 16 years and over but does not provide continuing care.

   These services recruit people living in the community and approve them as adult placement carers.

   The adult placement carer provides care and support to a maximum of two adults who may have learning disability, physical or sensory impairment, mental health or dementia. Adult Placement may also be used for young people leaving care (but not in Continuing Care) or who may be experiencing homelessness. This will include adults from age 16 and can be long-term placements, short breaks, emergency placements and day care. Care is usually provided within the adult placement carers’ home and the adult in placement is involved in all aspects of family life.

**Adult placement service – continuing care** - this is a service that is linked to a registered fostering agency for the purposes of supporting young people to remain in the same family placement.

   These services recruit and approve foster carers and adult placement carers to provide care and support to young adults who wish to remain living with their existing care families and who have opted for continuing care status as defined in Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

   The adult placement carer will also be approved as a foster carer with the same agency. A maximum of three young adults may be placed within an adult placement service – continuing care household.
Section 3: Guidance for registration and inspection

Conditions of registration for the two models will be different in relation to the maximum number of adults who can be cared for. These are set out in the tables below.

Table 3.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of care service: adult placement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>No more than two adults shall be placed at any one time within the household of any adult placement carer.</td>
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<td>The adult placement service must at all times have in place and implement an effective assessment, approval and review process for adult placement carers.</td>
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### Table 3.2

**Type of care service: adult placement – continuing care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No more than three adults shall be placed at any one time within the household of any adult placement carer.</td>
<td>To protect the integrity of this being a family placement, we limit the numbers to three placements per adult placement carer household. This reflects numbers of unrelated children who can be accommodated in a fostering placement. An application for an increase in numbers would be required if there were exceptional circumstances leading to more than three people requiring to be cared for in the adult placement household. Each application to increase numbers would be assessed on its own merits and, if agreed, this would include a clause that this would reduce to a maximum of three in time. For example, if a person was to leave their placement, they would not be replaced, and the service would need to notify us of the change and make a further application to vary conditions of registration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our approval process of foster carers as adult placement carers for the purposes of continuing care must include assessment, approval and review as a foster carer and an adult placement carer.</td>
<td>This will support safe recruitment processes and ongoing development of carers.</td>
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### 3.3 Registration Fees

Registration fees will apply in line with registration fee guidance.

Where a fostering and adult placement service operates as one service, **solely in order to support young people who have been cared for in the family on a fostering basis** and who now wish to remain with the same family on a continuing care basis, this will be treated for the purposes of fees as one service. The level for application and continuation fee will be set at the fostering agency service level.

**Solely in order to support young people who have been cared for in the family on a fostering basis** means that the adult placement service does not provide throughcare or aftercare.

This supports the accommodation and service to be the same for the young person as they move from being a looked after child to continuing care. This is set out in the
Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Part 11 Continuing Care, Section 67(4)

“(4) Continuing care means the same accommodation and other assistance as was being provided for the person by the authority, in pursuance of this Chapter of this Part, immediately before the person ceased to be looked after.”

**Combined service discount**

Separately registered services that operate from the same premises, sharing staff, management, policies and so on, are often referred to as ‘combined services’. Combined services can be cheaper for us to administer.

Combined services include separately registered fostering and adult placement services where the adult placement service supports young people with throughcare, aftercare or in supported lodgings.

When first registering a service that is going to operate in combination with another service we may decide that a discount on the registration fee is appropriate. There is no standard discount on initial registration fees and we will look at the amount of discount we can offer (if any) on a case-by-case basis. The amount of discount we offer will correspond to the administrative savings we think we can make.

Once registered the annual continuation of registration fee becomes due. If we are satisfied we can make administrative savings due to services working in combination, we give a 15% discount on the smaller of the continuation fees.

Combined service discounts will show on the smaller service’s continuation fee invoice.

Details on fees are available on our website www.careinspectorate.com.

3.4. **Houses of multiple occupancy (HMO)**

Where there are more than three unrelated adults living within a household, you should consider the HMO regulations for the local authority area in which the placement is provided.

3.5. **Inspection planning and processes**

Our inspection methodology will apply to both models of adult placement service. We will inspect adult placement services – continuing care and the associated foster care service in an integrated way to ensure a proportionate approach to scrutiny and assurance.