

Contact Gillian Palmer

Telephone 020 8921 8230

Email gillian.palmer@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Directors of Children's Services
By Email

12th May 2015

Dear Director of Children's Services,



Children's Services
The Woolwich Centre
35 Wellington Street
Woolwich
London SE18 6HQ

Main number 0208 854 8888

RE: Services available to looked after children placed by other Local Authorities in the Royal Borough of Greenwich

I would like to let you know about services available to looked after children who are placed in Royal Greenwich by other local authorities. I would be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of relevant people in your services.

Placing your child and notifications

If your authority is considering placing a looked after child in Royal Greenwich, please ask your staff to contact our Personalised Commissioning Team who can advise on any concerns about the placement location or local services. They can be emailed at personalisedcommissioning@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or ring 020 8854 8888 and ask to speak to the Personalised Commissioning Team in Children's Services.

All notifications of looked after children placed in, changing address within, or ending placements in the Royal Greenwich should be sent to: personalisedcommissioning@royalgreenwich.gov.uk We routinely review our list of looked after children placed in Royal Greenwich by other local authorities and it is very helpful to be advised when placements end or change as well as when they are planned or start.

About Royal Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is a great place to grow up and go to school. You can find local information on the Council's website at: <http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/site/>

Learning and education

We have a wonderful library service with a very accessible library at The Woolwich Centre, for more information on learning and education go to the link http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/100005/education_and_learning. Our schools have achieved a step change in educational attainment in recent years and we have more good and outstanding

schools than nationally. They are ambitious for all students and are successfully closing the gap for vulnerable children.

All our schools identify looked after children as the highest priority in school admissions. Some faith schools will take account of the faith of the child when prioritising looked after children. Please contact the Admissions Service as soon as possible to discuss the applications process by emailing school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by calling 020 8921 8118 / 5821 / 8036 / 5029

Our schools are strongly committed to enabling looked after children realise their aspirations through educational attainment. All schools have a designated teacher who champions looked after children. They work closely with the RBG Virtual School who have a strong track record of working with schools on behalf of all looked after children. You can contact the Head of RBG Virtual School and her team by ringing 020 8921 5821 or by emailing : looked-after-children-education@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Families Information & Outreach Service

Our Families Information and Outreach Service (FIOS) provides information about services for children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 for young people with special educational needs and disability). Information can be found at <http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/fis>

The service can be contacted on 020 8921 6921 or by e-mailing fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk Please contact FIOS for information about support for young parents, children's centres, early learning and childcare provision and services and/or activities for disabled children. Looked after children aged 2, 3 or 4 years are entitled to up to the equivalent of 15 hours free early learning per week in Royal Greenwich.

Disabled children

The Families Information & Outreach Service (FIOS) coordinates our Disabled Children & Young People's Register and sends regular information to those who register. For more information: http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200071/parental_support/679/disabled_children_and_young_peoples_register

FIOS can also advise on services that support families with disabled babies and young children and individualised child care brokerage. Information about our local offer for disabled children is available at <http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/localoffer>. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS, formerly Parent Partnership Service) provides impartial and confidential advice and support for families with children and young people with SEND needs. They can be contacted at our Family Information Service by ringing 020 8921 6921 or by emailing sendiass@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Royal Greenwich is the administering education authority for out of borough looked after children placed within our borough. Education, Health & Care Plans are replacing Statements of Special Education Needs.

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200034/disabilities/1671/about_the_local_offer

Our SEN Team continues to be responsible for the maintenance of the child's Statement of SEN and will make contact with their social worker in your authority. The SEN Team can be contacted at 020 8921 8945 or by emailing special-needs@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or ringing 020 8921 8945.

Health

All children and young people living in Royal Greenwich have access to universal health services. Greenwich Clinical Commissioning Group are responsible for commissioning many local health provision. For information about local services go to <http://www.greenwichccg.nhs.uk/Local-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

Community health services and child and adolescent mental health services are provided by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. Below are links to their website:

<http://www.oxleas.nhs.uk/services/?type-community-health-services-chil=on&borough-greenwich=on> and <http://www.oxleas.nhs.uk/services/service/child-and-adolescent-mental-1/>

Greenwich CAMHS has developed Headscape in conjunction with young people. Young people can use the Headscape website to find out information about emotional health and wellbeing, access self help resources and to refer themselves to CAMHS.

www.headscapegreenwich.co.uk

Our Looked After Children Health Team can provide information and advice when a placement in Royal Greenwich is being considered. Their contact details are :

Address: Bungalow 3, Wensley Close, Eltham, SE9 5AB

Public phone number: 020 8294 3168

(Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm)

Email address: greenwich.lac@nhs.net

Services for young people

Royal Greenwich commissions universal youth services. You can find information about these services at www.young-greenwich.org.uk

The Point is our one stop shop for young people aged 16 and older to access advice, guidance and services. It is based at 47 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich London SE18 6EW. Telephone number: 020 8921 8224.

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/700/young_people-information_and_advice/599/youth_services_at_the_point

Our Youth Offending Service, as well as those holding statutory responsibility for children and young people subject to statutory orders imposed by the court, provides a range of targeted, youth crime prevention services. We have a strong focus on early identification and intervention for children and young people becoming involved in gangs, locally this activity focuses on drug distribution that reaches well beyond our authority.

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/870/community_safety/230/youth_crime/2

Please ring the Youth Offending Service on 020 8921 8700 whenever a child or young person for whom you hold case responsibility is bailed to an address in Royal Greenwich as we will become responsible for the management and enforcement of bail. I would urge your staff to make contact

with our Youth Offending Service where you are thinking of placing a child or young person with a record of offending behaviour or gang association in Royal Greenwich.

Contacting children's social care in an emergency

In office hours please telephone 020 8921 3172 to speak to a duty social worker. Should your staff need to contact a social worker out of office hours contact us at 020 8854 8888

Safeguarding vulnerable children

Within our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements the police and children's social care will consider police notifications and referrals about children and young people who go missing, are affected by gangs or maybe at risk of child sexual exploitation. We routinely monitor looked after children who go missing who are placed by other local authorities. Our staff will make contact with you where there is information of concern about your child. We may ask your staff to contribute to information sharing, analysis and risk management planning where we are concerned about your child's welfare and the risk of exploitation, including radicalisation.

Safeguarding vulnerable children living away from home is a priority and, if any allegations are made concerning staff working in placements, please refer the matter to the Greenwich MASH and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be consulted.

The Greenwich MASH can be contacted at MASH-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Finally

We hope your looked after children will want to get involved in our Children in Care Council. The group produce accessible, informative and lively newsletters for all looked after children. We are proud of our children young people taking a lead in surveys of all looked after children. Members of our Children in Care Council and senior leaders in Children's Services meet regularly and we have a system of challenge cards for raising issues and finding solutions. We listen and act on what they tell us. josh@participationpeople.com

I hope this letter will be a helpful contribution to your corporate parenting of your children. Your children are very welcome and I hope that they benefit from spending time in our wonderful borough.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Palmer
Director of Children's Services