

Service available to Looked After Children or children placed for adoption, placed in Doncaster by other local authorities

What is this document?

This document contains information for children's social services providers who are placing children or young people in the Doncaster Borough. It contains information about the resources and facilities available.

We ask all children's services providers to consult the Trust before making a placement in Doncaster so we can share our local knowledge which may affect the suitability and success of the placement.

What is Doncaster Children's Services Trust?

Doncaster Children's Services Trust is an independent organisation established in October 2014. It delivers a number of the social care services for children and families which were previously provided by the local authority. These are:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Referral and Response Service
- Intensive Family Support Service
- Assessment and Child Protection Teams
- Children in Care Service
- Fostering and Adoption
- Youth Offending Service
- Child in Care Council

The following services are still provided by Doncaster Council:

- Education and Support Services for Schools
- The Virtual School
- The SEN Service
- The Children with a Disability Team
- Early Help Services

How do I consult with the Trust before placing a Child in Care in Doncaster?

Contact the Trust's Head of Safeguarding, Standards and Policy:

Richard Fawcett

richard.fawcett@dcstrust.co.uk Tel: 01302 734523

If the Head of Safeguarding, Standards and Policy is unavailable please contact:

Head of Service – Children in Care:

Ian Walker

ian.walker@dcstrust.co.uk Tel: 01302 736972

How do I notify the Trust about Children in Care who have already been placed in Doncaster?

Send an email to this secure address: Safeguarding@doncaster.gcsx.gov.uk

Please tell us about any specific risks or vulnerabilities including risks of child sexual exploitation (CSE) or patterns of missing behaviour, and tell us how to contact your Emergency Duty Team or equivalent out of hours service.

This email address should also be used to:

- Report any change of address.
- Notify us when any child leaves the Doncaster area.
- Inform us if children are subject of a child protection plan.

How do I contact the Trust about a specific case?

Contact our Referral and Response Team:

referral&responseteam@doncaster.gov.uk Tel: 01302 737777.

After receiving information we will notify the Virtual Head Teacher and the Looked After Children (LAC) Health Team as necessary.

How do I find a school place for a child moving to Doncaster?

Enquiries about admissions to secondary schools should be emailed to:

SchoolOrg@doncaster.gov.uk

The Virtual Head Teacher in Doncaster is Christine Hargreaves who can be contacted at Christine.Hargreaves@doncaster.gov.uk Tel: 01302 307880.

Doncaster's Senior Special Needs Co-ordinator is Margaret Watson who can be contacted at margaret.watson@doncaster.gov.uk Tel: 01302 307266.

How to I report concerns about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

If you have any concerns that a young person may be vulnerable to CSE contact the Trust's CSE team at this secure email address: CSETeamGCSX.admin@doncaster.gcsx.gov.uk

Children's Centres

There are a number of Children's Centres in Doncaster and these are managed by the Doncaster Council. Each Centre provides services for every child aged 0-5 years old and their family. For details visit: <http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/earlyhelp.html>.

Health Services

The Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children is Paula Walker and she can be contacted at Paula.Walker@rdash.nhs.uk Tel: 01302 796268.

Doncaster has a team of specialist health professionals dedicated to the needs of Looked After Children. The team co-ordinates health assessments, provides advice for foster carers and carries out targeted work as required.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

The Trust has a dedicated Looked After Children CAMHS social worker who will be the first point of call to access this service. She can be contacted at: Christina.Cont@dcstrust.co.uk

Safeguarding and Child Protection

If we have cause to believe that a child placed in our area has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm whilst living in Doncaster we will take responsibility for initiating child protection procedures. We will start Strategy Discussions with South Yorkshire Police and partner agencies and will consult with the child/young person's social worker to ensure that any plans made are appropriate and agreed. The Strategy Discussion will consider who is best placed to undertake any specific actions such as interviewing the young person.

Any S47 Enquiries* that are undertaken by the Trust will be undertaken initially by the Referral and Response Team which is based alongside colleagues from South Yorkshire Police. Depending on the specific circumstances of the case, and subject to negotiated agreement, the Trust may agree to take the lead on any investigation. Regardless of how the investigation is managed we will need to work closely together and share information, especially where there is an assessed on-going risk to the young person or any other young person in our area.

Children who go missing

The Trust is a party to the South Yorkshire Region Protocol for Young People who are Missing from Care or from Home which can be found on the following website: www.doncasterchildcare.proceduresonline.com.

Section 13 of the Protocol outlines the specific actions required of your local authority should one of the young people placed within Doncaster go missing from their placement.

These Procedures specify that where a young person who is placed in Doncaster by another local authority goes missing then Trust will inform that local authority as soon as possible to ensure the appropriate processes are followed.

Where a Professionals/Strategy Meeting is required, it will be led by the placing local authority although and attended by a relevant representative from the Trust's Referral and Response Team. The Trust's Referral and Response Team will be responsible for ensuring that the Strategy Meeting is convened in line with the terms of this Protocol.

The Strategy Meeting will agree which local authority is responsible for which particular aspect of the action plan agreed at the meeting. The Trust's Referral and Response Team will also ensure that all such young people placed in the Doncaster area by other local authorities have an appropriate Return to Placement Interview.

Where necessary, the Missing Person's Co-ordinator for South Yorkshire Police and the Referral and Response social worker and their line management should ask the Deputy Chief Executive and Superintendent from South Yorkshire Police to liaise with their equivalent in the placing authority to highlight concerns. An example of this situation would be where the existing placement arrangements are increasing the risks to the young person.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

If the Trust has reasonable cause to suspect that a person who works with children in the Doncaster area has harmed or poses a risk to a child this will be dealt with under the local Safeguarding Procedures. This will include the LADO within the Trust taking the lead in any subsequent investigation. They can be contacted at LADO@dcstrust.co.uk

Doncaster Youth Offending Service

Doncaster Youth Offending Service works with young people aged between 10 and 19 and their families who are subject to a criminal justice outcome ranging from Youth Conditional Cautions to Custodial sentences. The service can be contacted at: yot@dcstrust.co.uk Tel: 01302 736100

Donny CiCsters (Child in Care Council)

Looked After Children placed in Doncaster by other local authorities are welcome to join the Doncaster Children in Care Council.

Contact: jo.mullard@dcstrust.co.uk Tel: 01302 735872

The Trust runs the Total Respect training programme which is facilitated by Looked After Young People for carers and social work professionals. If your young person would like to be trained to become a trainer the contact person is:-

Yvette Cotton (Strategic Lead for Workforce Development)

yvette.cotton@dcstrust.co.uk Tel 01302 734978

Further information

Further information about general services in Doncaster can also be found on the Council's website at www.doncaster.gov.uk.

For more information about the Trust visit: www.doncasterchildrenstrust.co.uk or tel: 01302 737777.

* This relates to section 47 of the Children Act 1989 which states that where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm the local authority has a duty of care to make enquires to enable it to decide whether it should take any action to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child.