

November 2021
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**INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS for Children and Young
People in Care**

INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Berkshire East Children and Young People in Care Team

Email: CICBerkshireeast@berkshire.nhs.uk

The statutory responsibility for ensuring a child has an initial health assessment (IHA) and the report is available for the child's first statutory review (20 days after becoming looked after) lies with the responsible local authority.

The following information explains how the IHA process works for children looked after by Slough Children First.

- Within 5 days of a child becoming looked after, the responsible Social Worker should ensure that the following forms are emailed via secure email to the Children and Young People in Care team at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust : **CICBerkshireeast@berkshire.nhs.uk**
- A copy of the Part A form (Fully completed).
- The consent form which has been signed and dated: -
 - ❖ By a person with parental responsibility and/or the young person themselves with capacity.
 - ❖ If the child/young person has entered care on an ICO the Head of Service must sign the consent if the person with parental responsibility / young person are unable to sign it themselves.
 - ❖ Coram BAAF PH (but this can be sent through to us separately before the IHA appointment).

**THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT CAN ONLY BE ARRANGED WHEN
BOTH FORMS ARE RECEIVED**

- Reminder : The Social Worker also needs to notify the child's current GP, new GP and the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group if child is living outside of Berkshire) that the child has become looked after.

There is a different provision for children living within the 20-mile border of Berkshire and those beyond.

If the child is living within the 20-mile border:

- The Initial Health Assessment Coordinator will arrange an initial health assessment at Fir Tree House, Upton Hospital, Slough within 21 days of the referral paperwork being received.
- The Social Worker should:
 - respond to the offered appointment by email within 48 hrs.
 - inform the young person and carer along with the birth parent (if appropriate) of the date and time of the health assessment and arrange their attendance.
 - Inform the coordinator if the birth parents are attending.
 - Arrange an interpreter if needed, preferably able to join the appointment face to face. Inform the IHA coordinator of the interpreter's name and id number.
- A Social Worker should be present at the health assessment.

Please inform the coordinator immediately if there are any particular circumstances that need to be taken into consideration when arranging the health assessment:

E.g. Preference for a male or female doctor
Recent child protection medical
Any identified risks to personal safety
Any upcoming appointments booked with a paediatrician

The health assessment takes 1 hour to complete so there is little flexibility around the date and times of appointments offered and wherever possible, the first appointment offered should be accepted.

If the Social Worker feels that it is not advisable for the child/young person to attend the Upton Clinic because of risks to the child/young person related to returning to Berkshire or because of the length of journey, the Social Worker should advise the IHA coordinator accordingly so alternative arrangements can be made.

If the Child/Young Person is living beyond 20 mile radius of Berkshire:

The IHA coordinator will send the IHA request to the out of area Children and Young People in Care health team and will request the IHA is completed in the area where the child is living. Once it has been returned to the IHA coordinator and quality checked, a copy will be then sent to the Social Worker.

Following the Initial Health Assessment

The Social Worker should give a copy of the assessment to the carer, young person and/or birth parents as applicable.

The health assessment should be reviewed by the Social Worker and the recommendations incorporated into the child's care plan. It should also be reviewed by the Independent Reviewing Officer at the child's statutory reviews.

Other information**Placement Changes:**

The Social Worker should notify the BHFT Children in care Team of any placement changes by completing a new Part A.

Reminder : the Social Worker also needs to notify the child's current GP, new GP and the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group if child is outside of Berkshire) of any placement changes as well.

Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children

- **Part A:**
 - All sections of the Part A fully completed.
 - Details of the young person's journey and any available background history.
 - Young person's ethnicity as well as nationality.
- **Consent:**

Young people (aged 16 or 17) are presumed to have sufficient capacity to decide on their own medical treatment and consent to a health assessment, unless there's significant evidence to suggest otherwise. Children under the age of 16 can consent to their own treatment if they're believed to have enough intelligence, competence and understanding to fully appreciate what's involved. If the child or young person cannot consent then consent should be given by a person with parental responsibility.
- **GP:** The Young Person should be registered with a GP within 24 hours of becoming looked after.
- **TB testing:** The Social Worker should notify the BHFT Children in care Team of any placement changes by completing a new Part A.
 - The Young person should be referred for TB testing by the Social Worker within 24 hrs of becoming looked after.
 - If the young person is living in East Berkshire then the Social Worker can refer to the New Entrant Screening team at King Edward Hospital: lisa.maben1@nhs.net
 - If the young person is living in Berkshire West then the Social Worker can refer to the new Entrant Screening service at the Royal Berks Hospital: rbft.tb-service-refs@nhs.net
 - If the child living outside Berkshire, local processes vary so the Social Worker should ask the GP to refer.
 - Please ensure that the young person's contact number is on the referral.
 - Information in different languages regarding latent TB testing can be found here: [Latent TB testing and treatment: leaflet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Covid 19:

Guidance for Social Workers on the following :

- New Arrivals; covid testing, need for quarantine
- Measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19

- Face coverings
- Suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19
- Vaccination

Can be found here

[COVID-19: guidance for providers of accommodation for asylum seekers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers)

Contact details:

GILLIAN FYNN - IHA COORDINATOR

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