

ECRC Freedom of Information Request

October 2018

Out of area placements

1) How are Return Home Interviews (RHIs) delivered to looked after children who are placed outside of your local authority area? **(please tick)**

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) RHIs are completed by the third sector organisation that also deliver them to children within our local authority area | |
| b) RHIs are completed by someone in our children’s services but never their social worker | |
| c) RHIs are completed by someone in our children’s services and that could be their social worker | X |
| d) RHIs are completed by the young persons’ social worker | |
| e) We spot purchase from the host local authority’s RHI service | |
| f) We spot purchase from another service | |
| g) We do not offer RHIs to this group | |
| h) Combination of the above | X |
| i) If yes please provide further information: | |
| i) Other | X |
| i) If yes please provide further information:
There is a trained team, independent of Social Workers, but within the Council who have responsibility for advocacy and manage LAC missing | |

- 2) a) How many children in the care of your local authority were placed out of area between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018? **159**
- b) How many children who were placed out of area went missing between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018? **15**
- c) Of that figure how many were offered a RHI? **15**
- d) How many received a RHI? **15**

3) Does your local authority offer RHIs to looked-after children from other local authorities who are placed in your local authority area? **(please tick)**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a) Yes | |
| b) No | |
| c) On a case-by-case basis | X |
| i) If so please give more detail: | |

4) If you selected ‘yes’ or ‘case-by-case’ to the previous question please could you tell us which agency is responsible for delivering RHIs to this group of young people?

- a) A Third sector agency **No**
- b) A team based within your local authority **Yes**
- c) We provide a spot purchasing service **No**

5) a) How many looked after children and young people were placed in your local authority area by other local authorities between 31 March 2017 and 1 April 2018?

b) How many of these children and young people received a RHI?

This information is not held. Each request for an RHI is handled on a case by case basis as above.

6) Please tell us more about your return interview service for children placed out of area. Would you like to see any changes in national guidance? What are the barriers to effective provision? What is working well in your area?

National Guidance is only guidance, so does not have to be followed. This should be legislated.

Barriers include resources to have enough independent people to undertake all return interviews.

Good things include:

- **Positive training**
- **Positive relationship with staff**
- **Established LAC service for return interviews.**