



# Planning transitions to adulthood for care leavers

NCAS Lead

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For Corporate Parenting Board June 6<sup>th</sup> 2011



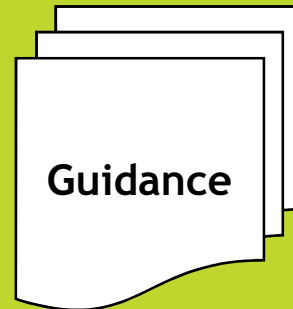
# Legislative framework



Acts of parliament  
(AoP)  
Broad legal  
framework



Bring into force or  
alter provisions of  
AoP without  
Parliament having  
to pass a new Act.



Issued under s.7 of  
the LA Social Services  
Act 1970 *must* be  
followed unless there  
are exceptional  
circumstances which  
justify a variation.



Case law  
Tests application  
of law in specific  
cases

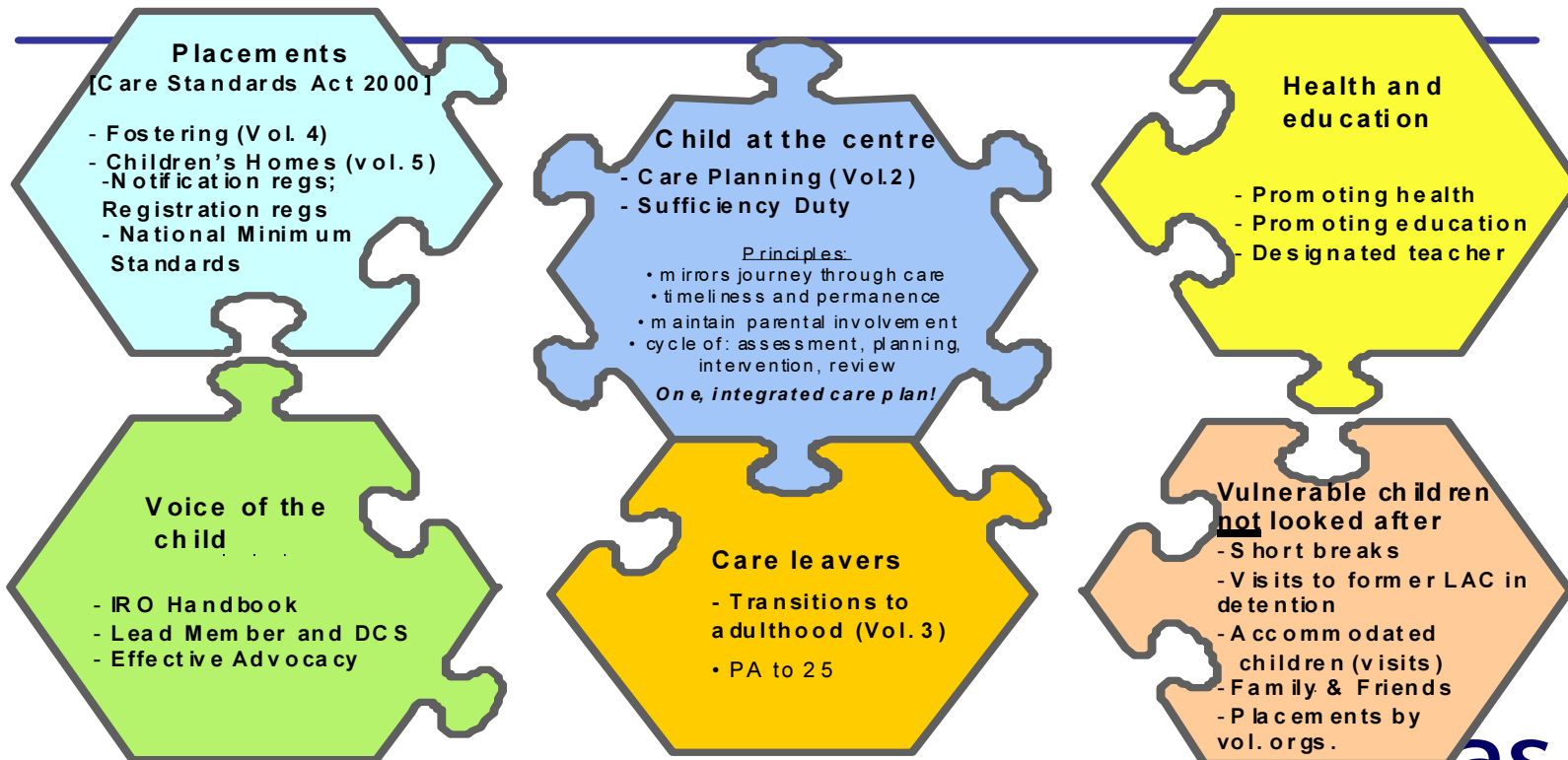
Clarification



# Implementing CYP 2008 Act

- Rationalising and streamlining regulations and guidance related to Children Act 1989
- Current framework is hard to access, complicated and in some areas out of date
- **What DFE are trying to do:**
  - communicate the key messages and support changes to practice starting with the suite of regulations relating to Care Planning

# Legal framework from Apr '11



**Legal underpinnings:**  
Children Act 1989; International obligations

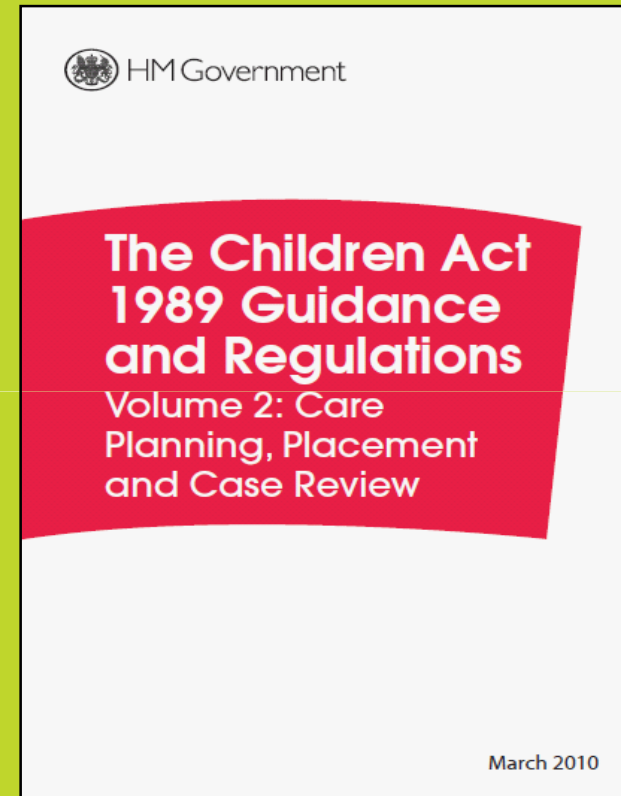
**leavingcare.org**



**Nottingham  
City Council**

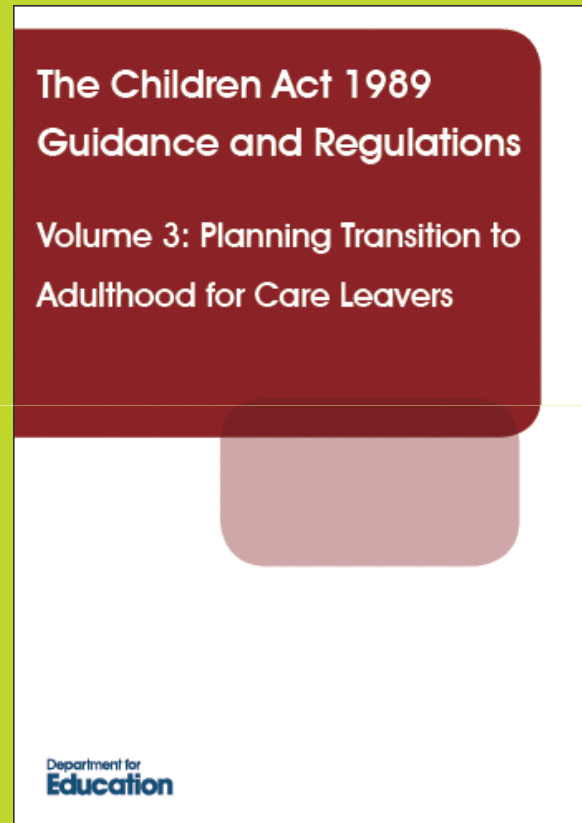
## Vol.2: Care planning guidance

- Eligible children (p.101)
- Other arrangements - unregulated placements (p.60)
- Suitable accommodation - Schedule 6
- Role of the IRO



# Vol.3 Planning transition

- Only refers to relevant and former relevant children
- Valid from April '11



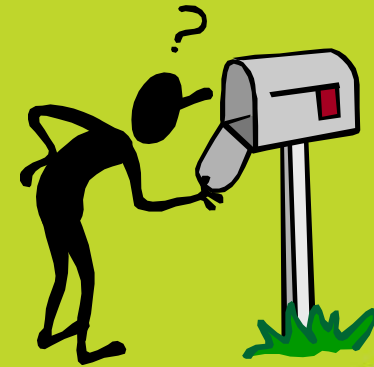
# Children and Young Persons Act

- No move from regulated to unregulated placement without a statutory review chaired by independent reviewing officer (IRO) (s.8 of CYP)
- Higher education bursary (s21 of CYP)
- Personal Adviser (PA) to 25 (s.23 of
- CYP Act 2008 amends s.23D of
- Children Act)



# What does each chapter cover?

- Legal framework
- Pathway planning & personal advisers
- Care leavers aged 18-24
- Education, training and employment
- Care leavers who require additional specialist support
- Planning and arranging suitable accommodation
- Finance matters
- Representation and complaints





# Pathway plan

- **YP participation in planning**
- **Duties apply to all YP**
  - (disability/UASC/Custody)
- **Based on and includes YP care plan**
  - Reversed from transitions guidance
- **EET – PEP to continue while in education**
- **Accommodation – need to assess readiness for new accommodation and suitability**

# Personal Advisers

- **Building a personal relationship with YP**
  - Regular face to face contact
- **Skills/Qualifications**
  - No specific equal. But 'normally possess or be working towards a professional qualification'
  - Appendix on necessary skills
- **Possible to delegate aspects of PA function to carers and other practitioners – Nottingham approach**

# PA and SW <sup>(1)</sup>

- PWP to be prepared before leave care – ‘usually YP social worker’ (3.11) - mirrored in Care planning guidance (5.8)
- [For eligible children] The authority will then need to determine which professional should be appointed as the young person’s personal adviser, mindful of the need to preserve continuity of services for that young person. (5.8 care planning guidance)
- Once 18 ‘no longer required to provide a SW to plan & coordinate their care” (3.17)

# PA and SW role <sup>(2)</sup>

- “where YP circumstances change and it becomes necessary to revise PWP, the PA may be most suitable to reassess their needs and suggest amends to the plan to the LA, setting out how the YP will be supported in the future” (3.30)
- PA responsible for convening reviews (3.33)
- PA’s must understand arrangements for liaising with the responsible authority so PWP is implemented (3.35)
- Develop new LA policy on chairing reviews (4.18)

# PA to 25 – significant change (financial duty for the LA

- “(p.8-9) When YP informs LA they want to pursue ETE:
- Appoint a PA
- Carry out an assessment to establish needs and inform appropriate support
- Prepare a pathway plan
- ‘to the extent the person’s educational or training needs require it, provide financial assistance’
- the extent of practical and financial assistance provided will depend on the LA’s assessment of the YP needs, reflecting the type of course (PT/FT) & YP’s existing income (3.52)



# Financial support

- **Priorities for financial policies**
  - **Setting up home allowances – CiCC role**
  - **Promote and encourage EET**
    - Incentives, contributions & sanctions
  - **Bridging gaps/ emergency payments**
- **PAs to support YP with benefit claims**
  - **Working relationships with DWP, JCP, HB offices & benefits delivery centres**
  - **Benefits guide is good practice**
    - NCAS free guide



# Good practice

- A. Knowledge and skills of Personal Advisers
- B. Supporting good practice so care leavers can succeed in further and higher education
- C. Planning suitable accommodation for care leavers
- D. Good practice promoting care leavers' health and wellbeing
- E. Further information about good practice in providing financial support
- F. Transition to adulthood policies and protocols