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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the responsibilities of the home to ensure that all children have access to health services.

**Implementation:** It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that staff members are aware of and understand this policy and any subsequent revisions.

**Compliance:** This policy complies with all relevant regulations and other legislation as detailed in the *Compliance with Regulations & Legislation Statement*.

## 2.0 NOTIFICATIONS & REGISTRATION

When a child is placed in a home, the social worker must arrange for the Health Authority, in the area where a child is placed, to be notified of the placement.

The Manager of the home should arrange for the following:

- For the child to be allocated with a Keyworker who will be responsible for promoting his/her health and educational achievement, liaising with key professionals, including the Clinical Nurse Specialist, the child's GP and dental practitioner. The Keyworker will also be responsible for ensuring that up to date information is kept on the child in relation to his/her health needs, development, illnesses, operations, immunisations, allergies, medications, administered, dates of appointments with GP's and specialists (see Keyworking Policy);
- For the child to be registered with a GP;
- For the child to have access to a Dentist in the home's locality;
- For the child to be registered with an Optician in the home's locality;
- For a Health Care Assessment to be carried out in relation to the child as set out in Health Care Planning Policy.

Additionally, the child's Medical Record should be updated.

## 3.0 ACCESS TO HEALTH & SPECIALIST SERVICES

The Home's Manager must ensure the home has good links with health agencies, is well informed about local health services such as CAMHS and sexual health services in the area it covers and takes this into account when deciding on admissions.

If a child's needs are such that specialist health care is required e.g. children with a disability or visual impairment, the Home's Manager must ensure that local specialist services are secured, in conjunction with the Social Worker and relevant healthcare professionals from the Placing Authority.

If there are any serious concerns about the emotional or mental health of a child, the Home's Manager must alert the Social Worker, and seek a review of the child's placement and/or request an assessment under the Mental Health Act 1983.

Any strategies/services that are provided, must be outlined in the child's Placement Plan/Health Care Plan.

#### **4.0 APPOINTMENTS**

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If children appear to require or request it, appointments should be made for them to see their GP or other medical practitioners as appropriate.

When appointments are made, account should be taken of the child's wishes, for example, to see a practitioner of a preferred gender. Also, appointments should preferably be made which do not disrupt the child's education.

Parents, those with Parental Responsibility and the child's social worker should, if possible, be consulted before making appointments; and they should be informed of the outcome.

See Obtaining Consents Policy.

As appropriate, the Chronology/Referral and Information Record should be updated to take account of these appointments. Care should be taken to ensure that the top copy, held by the social worker, and the copy held in the home are updated.

Additionally, the child's Medical Record should be updated.