

10 things you should know about the protocol for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers



Adults who work with looked after children and care leavers in education, training or employment settings are asked to consider the following 10 points when responding to any offence, or potential offence, before contacting the Police:

1	The behaviour and/or disciplinary policy of the education, training or employment setting.
2	What informal action has action already been taken? Gather documentation if appropriate.
3	Has the child/young person apologised or attempted reparation?

4	What are the alleged victim's views? Please make a written record if possible.
5	Has ESLAC (01670 622779) and the social worker (or OneCall 01670 536400) been contacted for their views on the appropriate next steps?
6	Does the setting have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the care plan? For example, is there a risk assessment which needs to be consulted? If knowledge or understanding is lacking, contact the social worker for further advice.
7	Review recent behaviour / incidents regarding the looked after child/care leaver. Include similar incidents and any incidents in the child/young person's life that could have affected their behaviour, any history between the child/young person and the victim, history of the incident and any action under the disciplinary policy of the setting.
8	Is there enough information about the incident from the looked after child/care leaver's perspective (interview, witness statement or other)?
9	Are there any aggravating or mitigating factors?
10	If this was your child would you now call the Police?
	View Northumberland's protocol to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers here
	A comprehensive training programme is under development, including impact of trauma on neurodevelopment and behaviour, attachment awareness and the needs of young people who have been trafficked or exploited. All settings will be notified when the training is available.
	For further advice contact OneCall: 01670 536400
	For further information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminalising looked after children • Children in care 'unnecessarily criminalised' BBC • Criminalising children: the Howard League