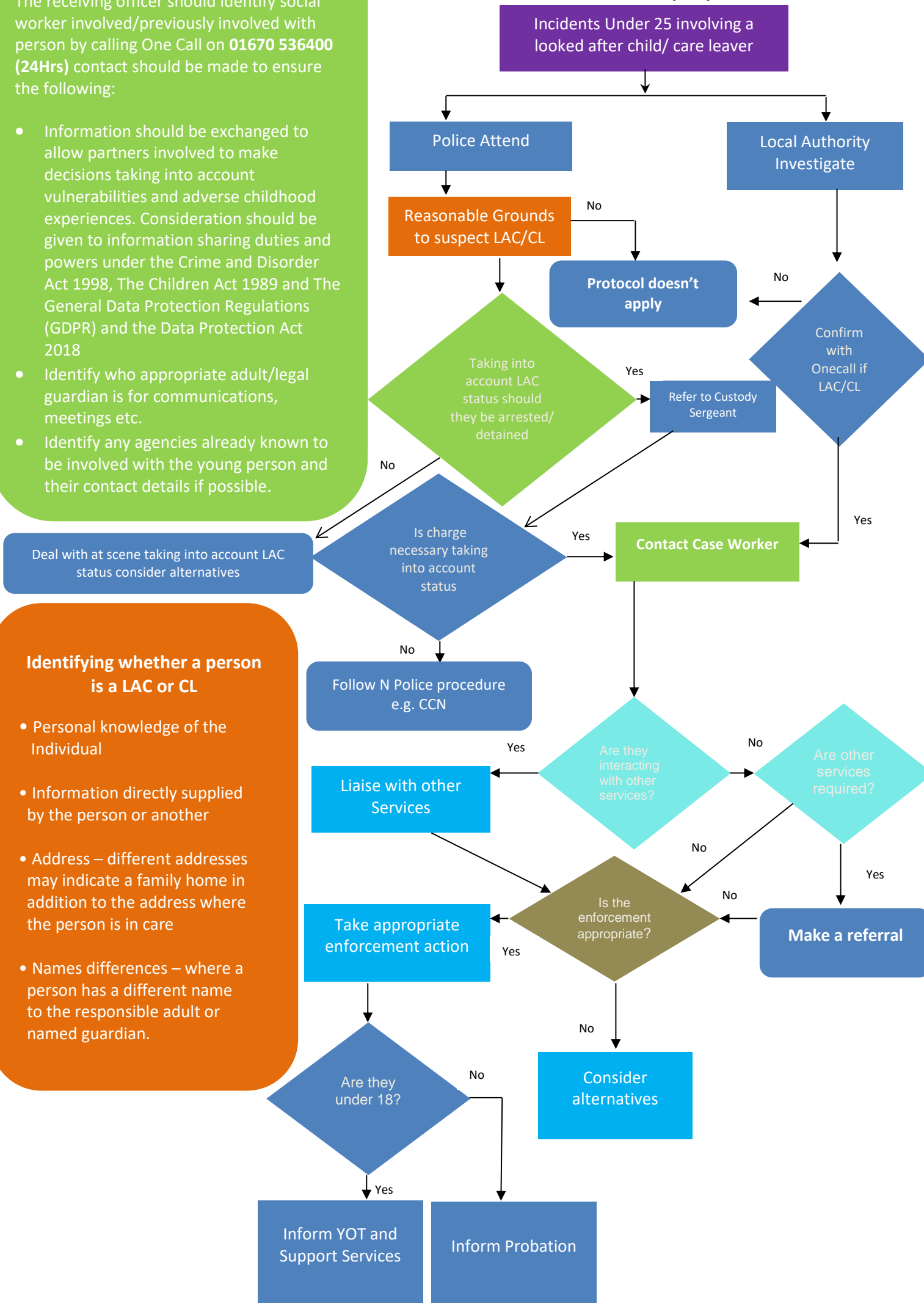


Contact with First Contact/Emergency Duty Team [24/7]

The receiving officer should identify social worker involved/previously involved with person by calling One Call on **01670 536400 (24Hrs)** contact should be made to ensure the following:

- Information should be exchanged to allow partners involved to make decisions taking into account vulnerabilities and adverse childhood experiences. Consideration should be given to information sharing duties and powers under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, The Children Act 1989 and The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Identify who appropriate adult/legal guardian is for communications, meetings etc.
- Identify any agencies already known to be involved with the young person and their contact details if possible.

Incidents Involving a Looked After Child (LAC) or Care Leaver (CL) under 25



Meaning of incident / definition of looked after child.

Looked after child - Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she falls into one of the following:

- is provided with accommodation, for a continuous period of more than 24 hours with agreement of parents.
- is subject to a care order
- is subject to a placement order

Care leaver - have previously been in care, but are no longer legally "looked after" by the Local Authority Children's Services. Children's Services still have a duty to support a care leaver until the age of 25.

Incidents – Any incident reported to police or local authority (including housing) that may result in action being taken by any one of those authorities and which may lead to criminalisation of the person involved. Such incidents include but are not limited to - ASB, crime, exploitation either by or of the alleged offender, drug/alcohol use, Domestic Violence.

Identifying whether a person is a LAC or CL

- Personal knowledge of the Individual
- Information directly supplied by the person or another
- Address – different addresses may indicate a family home in addition to the address where the person is in care
- Names differences – where a person has a different name to the responsible adult or named guardian.

Enforcement Decision

The Home Office guidelines on the national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers advise that any action taken by authorities takes into account the rights and needs of highly vulnerable children and young people and those of their carers and/or the public when deciding how to respond to incidents, and whether a formal criminal justice response is appropriate.

Consideration should be given to:

- CPS Guidelines on prosecution
- Whether the proposed action is proportionate and necessary
- Gravity of offence
- Whether the proposed action is likely to prevent reoffending. Children and young people already within the youth and criminal justice systems need protection from escalation
- What alternatives to a criminal justice response exist and whether these have been tried before.
- 10 point check

Other services

Other services would include any service that works with young people and care leavers to offer support in relation to

Services to Consider

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and/or mental wellbeing • Education • Alcohol and drug use, • Diversionary activities, • Prevention of reoffending, • Work around behaviour and consequences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth offending team • Probation • Northumberland Adolescent Service • Education welfare • CYPS/adult mental health services • SORTED/NRP • Youth service • Fire service |
|--|---|

Alternatives to enforcement

A co-developed, whole system approach should be encouraged. This should include prevention, early intervention and appropriate responses where children and young people do offend. Consideration should be given to:

- Engagement with carer to open dialogue and to discuss support.
- Acceptable Behaviour Agreement
- Education – consequences, peer pressure, drug and alcohol use, social media misuse
- Diversion work
- Restorative justice -letters of apology, voluntary work.
- Outcome 22

See 'Other Services' for agencies involved in delivering alternatives to enforcement and use local procedure to facilitate referral.