

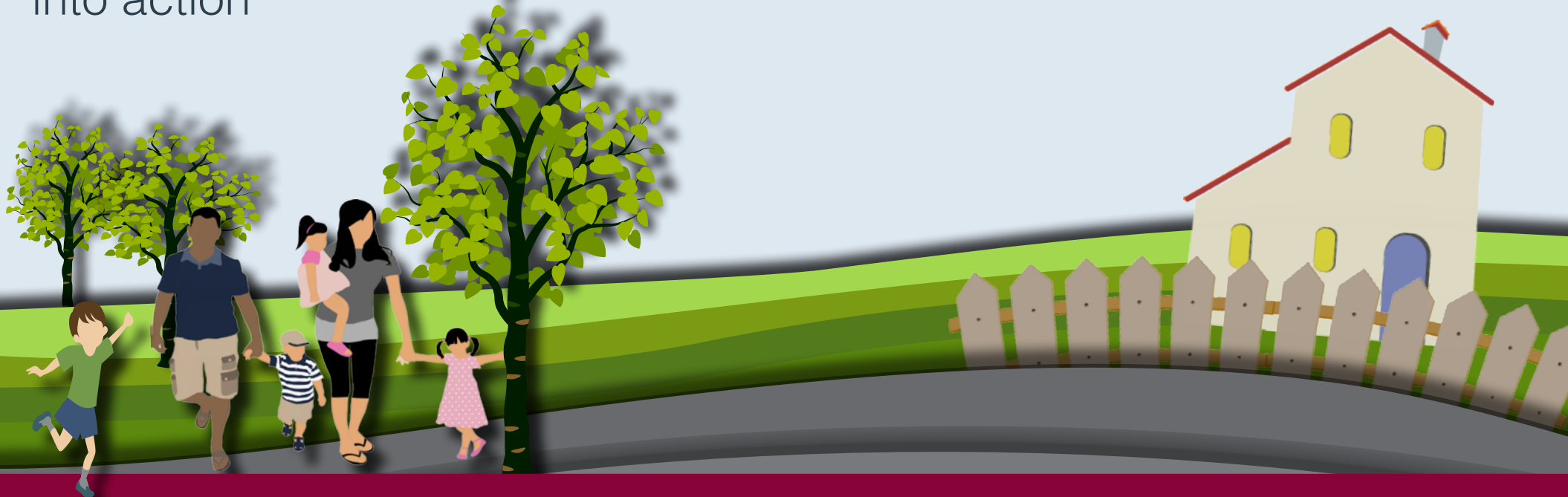


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Making Social Services Better

Putting **part 6** of the
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
into action



A consultation for young people

We've got good social services in Wales but the Welsh Government is making them even better.

Social services help families and individuals when they need help.

They also help children and young people:

- when they're in danger of being hurt
- when they have family problems
- when they have a disability
- when they're in trouble with the law or police
- when they're looked after in care
- when they aren't being looked after as they should be by their families
- when they leave care and are supported to become adults.

A new way of doing things.

In 2014 we made a new **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.**

(An Act makes changes to the law.)

This new Act sets out everything that local authorities (councils) have to do to help people in their area.

It has 11 parts that cover everything social services do and this booklet is about part 6.

To read about the whole new Act
– [click here:](#)



Getting ready

Everyone working in social services will be changing the way they work and using this new Act from April 2016.

We're putting together the new arrangements (steps) now so everyone understands what the new Act means and what they need to do.

The arrangements will include:

- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act itself
- New rules (regulations) that can be made because of the Act
- Codes of Practice (guides) for everyone who works in social services to follow.

This booklet tells you about some of the new rules and the Code of Practice that we have developed for part 6 of the Act.

We have already asked some people working in social services, and some children and young people, about these - but now we want to know what you think.

After this we'll send the codes and the regulations to the National Assembly for Wales for them to agree in time for everyone to start working to them from April 2016.



What is Part 6 about?

Part 6 of the Act covers social services issues that aren't covered in the other 10 parts.

These include what local authorities have to do to:

- support looked after children
- support children and young people leaving care.

There are 8 areas in this part of the Act:

1. Care and support planning

Making sure people get the support they need.

Every looked after child and young person has a care and support plan that sets out the help they get and who is giving it.

The code of practice sets out the responsibilities and duty the local authority has to:

- make sure there is care and support planning
- include support from health and education
- meet the needs of any court plan that is in place.

2. Placements

Finding safe places to live.

Having the right placement, at the right time, is really important. Placements can be with a family member, friend, foster parents or in a children's home.

The code of practice sets out:

- how children and young people are to be looked after
- how that placement must meet needs
- how a placement must not affect or disrupt education.

It also sets out guidelines for local authorities on:

- how to decide which is the best placement for a child or young person
- what information needs to be recorded
- what to do when the placement ends
- what needs to happen if a placement is outside Wales.



3. Contact and visits

Checking people get the support they need.

Local authorities have to visit children in placements to check they're getting the support they need.

The Act sets out new guidelines for local authorities so they understand the:

- purpose of visits
- outcomes and difference visits should make
- how often visits should happen
- how information should be kept.

Some children and young people may need to have an independent visitor, if they don't have regular contact with their parents or if they are placed a long way from home.

4. Review of cases

Checking on care and support.

Every local authority has an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), for each child and young person in care, that checks how services work and shows them how they can work better.

The Act explains what IRO's should do and has guidelines on their role and functions.



5. Leaving care

Helping young people live independently.

The code of practice sets out:

- arrangements for leaving care
- pathway plans for young people turning 16 so they know what is going to happen
- the role of personal advisors
- the support young people can get until they are 25.

It also sets out all the different ways children and young people leave care so local authorities understand what level and type of support they should give.

6. Post-18 living arrangements

Giving young people a choice.

Many young people move on to independent living when they turn 18 but want to stay with their foster parents. The new 'When I am Ready' scheme helps them to do this.

'When I am Ready' scheme

The new Act places a new duty on local authorities to find out if young people want to stay with their foster parents after they turn 18. They must discuss this with the young person and their foster carers when they turn 16. The local authority must support the young person and their foster carer if they want to continue to live together. You can stay until you are 21, or 25 if you are in education or training.

The new guidelines set out:

- the aims and goals of the scheme
- who is able to take part
- how it will work.



7. Secure accommodation

Keeping people safe.

Some young people need to be looked after in secure children's homes. This can be to keep them or the public safe.

The act sets out guidelines for:

- how children and young people should be looked after in secure homes
- what placements they should have
- the maximum time a placement can last before a court gets involved.

8. Children in other types of establishment

Other places children are looked after.

Children and young people can be looked after because they have other needs. This includes special health or education needs.

The Act sets out guidelines for local authorities so they understand and carry out their responsibility to visit and check on children who are looked after:

- by health authorities in independent hospitals
- by education authorities
- in care homes.

Thanks for reading this.

Please fill in the questions and send your answers to:

sswbimplementation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

or:

Sustainable Social Services Implementation Branch
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

by 31 July 2015



Questions:

Do you think the new rules and the Code of Practice that we have developed for Part 6 of the Act are a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you think we have left anything important out when making these plans?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:

Comment:

