

WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**



# **CPB November 2022 'Illegal Placements'**

# Principle

Regulation came into force September 2021 banning placement of children under 16 years in unregulated provision

WCF does not support the use of unregistered children's homes or unregulated provision for children under the age of 16 years.

# Definition

Any child under 16 years placed in an unregistered children's home

Any child under 16 years placed in an unregulated provision

Any child over 16 years placed in an unregulated/unregistered provision and subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Order (DOLs)

# Data

- Since April 2021 WCF has placed a total of 11 children ranging from 8 to 15 years in unregulated provision
- Currently there are 2 children under 16 years in unregulated provision
- There are 2 children over 16 years subject to Deprivation of Liberty Orders placed in unregulated provision

# Why WCF utilise illegal placements

- Placement breakdown with immediate notice being served on placement arrangement
- Challenging and complex behaviour of child, usually having experienced multiple placement breakdowns
- External market factors
- Impact of Ofsted residential inspection regime

# Assurances and Notification

- Immediate notification made to Ofsted with rationale
- Increased visiting frequency via Social Worker and IRO
- Placements Team quality assurance visit and report
- Encourage and support fast track Ofsted registration of provider
- Weekly monitoring, reporting and senior management scrutiny

# Case Examples

- Tom: placement breakdown following inspection of home after 2 year settled period at placement and school
- Aliesha: awaiting secure bed and subject to DOLs Order, subject to multiple placement breakdowns
- Tyler: settled for the first time since being looked after in unregulated provision; previously subject to DOLs and Secretary of State approved Secure Order

# Prevention is the best remedy

- Continued focus on SFF model
- Place and support within family network wherever appropriate
- Ensure placement search profile is contextualised and rounded
- Continued proactive approach of Placements Team
- Consolidation meetings and support to existing providers
- Development of crisis unit