



Policy No: SJD/YP/21	Authorised by: Davina Powell	Review Date: 20th October 2023
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REGISTRATION WITH GP, DENTIST AND OPTICIAN		

Policy Statement

'Looked after children' are already at a disadvantage due to circumstances which have resulted in them being placed with SJD Homes. We pride ourselves in being sensitive to these circumstances and staff take this into account when supporting our young people. It is important that young people at SJD Homes receive assessment and support for any concerns voiced by them or identified by staff, and that these are not overlooked or ignored.

It is therefore required that appointments are made in a timely manner (at least 2 hours prior) or at 08:00 that morning. This will ensure that appointments are scheduled adequately, and the young person is given sufficient access to healthcare professionals. Responding promptly will promote health and wellbeing and empower the children and young people to participate actively in supporting their own health needs. It will also enable them to take responsibility for their health as they reach adulthood.

SJD Homes works in line with the three elements of health promotion:

- Health education
- Health protection; and
- Prevention.

Things SJD Homes staff members need to know —

- Every child should have an initial health assessment within 14 days of becoming a 'looked after child'. All initial assessments should be undertaken by a community paediatrician.
- The assessment is arranged by the social worker.
- You should ensure the child attends their appointment(s) and support them as appropriate. If the child is unable to keep the appointment, it is imperative that the doctor and social worker are informed as soon as possible to enable the appointment to be rescheduled.
- Following the assessment, the doctor will write a health care plan and decide who should do the follow-up assessments and reviews.
- You should ensure a copy of the Health Assessment and Health Care Plan goes into the child's file and that any actions the home is responsible for are carried out.
- Young people should be encouraged to be actively involved in their own healthcare. Treatment can only be given where there is valid consent.
- Young people under the age of 16 years can give consent if the medical or nursing practitioner is satisfied that the child /young person meets the criteria under the *Fraser Guidelines (Victoria Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Department of Health and Social Security (1985))*.
- In an emergency a doctor can intervene without consent and a residential worker can give consent to medical treatment in life-threatening situations.

Notification and Registration with GPs, Dentists and Opticians

As soon as a child / young person becomes a 'looked after child' their social worker will notify their GP and the designated LAC (Looked After Children) Nurse and arrange for a Health Care Assessment.

The social worker must ensure that the child / young person is registered with a general practitioner, optician and dentist, preferably retaining registration with a practitioner known to the child / young person. The social worker should liaise with the provider/carer to make these arrangements. For children who are unable to be registered with a dentist, arrangements must be made via the designated LAC Nurse for the child to have access to the Community Dental Services.

Appointments with GP, Dentist and Opticians

If children / young people 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. Appointments should preferably be made which do not disrupt the child's education.

The child's / young person's parents and social worker should, if possible, be consulted before making appointments; and they should be informed of the outcome.

Young people placed at SJD Homes, these details must also be recorded in the relevant child's / young person's Daily Record / individual folder.

Frequency of checks with GPs, Dentists and Opticians

Young people who are 'looked after children' should have dental checks every 6 months or as directed by the dentist but no less than annually. They should also have checks by an optician at a minimum of every 6 months, unless the child wears glasses, in which case the checks should be as required by the optician.