

Completion of Review Health Assessments for Looked After Children (England)

Joint position statement from RCPCH and Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

All children and young people in care must be treated equally; there should be no discrimination based on any factor including their local authority (the originating area where the child entered care remains the responsible local authority). Statutory requirements and who pays guidance for looked after children work still stands. Therefore, when considering the best way to complete initial and review health assessments for Looked after Children/Children in care during the pandemic, a clinical risk stratification process must be used. It must include all requests for assessments and decisions must be based on clinical judgment of the children in care team.

A decision may be made to delay a review in line with your local covid-19 contingency plans but no request for Health Assessment should be rejected. Normal escalation processes apply.

By the same token, pandemic recovery plans for Looked after Children services must include all children in the locality whether placed from other areas, in respite care or on remand.'