

## Looked After Children

<b>Description of the aspect</b>	<p>Looked After Children</p> <p>Children and Young People aged 0-18 who are in local authority care.</p> <p>Young People aged 18-25 years who are care leavers.</p>
<b>Prevalence in Barnet / nationally</b>	<p>In Barnet there are approximately 300 children and young people in care at any time.</p> <p>According to the NSPCC on the 31/03/12 there were 91,000 Children in Care in the UK which included 67,050 in England.</p>
<b>How might this group be vulnerable?</b>	<p>Looked After Children and Care Leavers are vulnerable in all aspects of their lives because of their experiences prior to coming into care (for example: abuse, neglect, lack of school attendance) and from experiences in care such as the court process, changes of placement and changes of social worker.</p>
<b>What is the impact / consequence of that vulnerability?</b>	<p>Some children respond very positively to being in care, become settled and thrive as their needs are met. Some children find being in care very difficult either because they want to return to their families or because previous needs begin to be addressed.</p> <p>Examples of needs Looked After Children often present with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor attainment in school</li> <li>• Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties</li> <li>• Difficulties making and maintaining relationships with peers and adults</li> <li>• Higher than average levels of special educational needs including statements of special educational needs.</li> <li>• Health issues that have not been addressed prior to coming into care</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Common signals of risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of engagement with social activities and friends</li> <li>• Lack of engagement with school</li> <li>• Poor attendance</li> <li>• Exclusions from school</li> <li>• Concerns about well-being/mental health</li> <li>• Taking drugs and alcohol</li> </ul>

<b>Who might notice?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School staff</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Foster carers/ Key workers in children's homes</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Other professionals</li> </ul>
<b>Sources of support in Barnet or nationally</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Team: this is a multi-disciplinary team with professionals supporting Education (The Virtual School), Health (Designated Nurses) and Participation.</li> <li>• Every school has a Designated Teacher responsible for supporting and monitoring the needs of Looked After Children.</li> <li>• The Who Cares? Trust</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant links</b>	