

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) 10 point check list for Offences in Children's homes

Officers who deal with children from care homes are required to receive information in relation to the 10 questions below before any decision on charge will be made by CPS reviewing lawyers.

To be considered by social care staff

1. Disciplinary policy of the children's home
2. Why have the Police been involved and is it agreed in the policy? There should be an explanation from the home regarding their decision to involve the Police which should refer to the procedures and guidance on police involvement
3. Any informal action / disciplinary action already taken?
4. Any apology / reparation?
5. Victim's views?
6. Social workers views? The views of the key worker, social worker, counsellor or CAHMS worker on the effect of the criminal justice intervention on the youth, particularly where the youth suffers from an illness or disorder.
7. Care plan for looked after child? If the looked after child wishes it to be considered, information about the local authorities assessment of his / her needs and how the placement provided by the home is intended to address them. The local authority should be able to provide this information as it is an integral part of the care plan for the looked after child.
8. Recent behaviour / incidents re the looked after child? Information from the home about the recent behaviour of the youth, including similar incidents and any incidents in the youths life that could have affected their behaviour, any history between the youth and the victim, history of the incident and any action under the disciplinary policy of the home.
9. Information about the incident from the looked after child (interview or other)?
10. Aggravating and mitigating factors.