

## SUFFOLK PACE BED SCHEME

### **Guide for Fostering Out of Hours Advice Service (FOOHAS) worker's discussion with Police at the Police Investigation Centre (PIC):**

#### **1. Confirm that the child is eligible for a PACE bed**

I.e. A child from any local authority who has been arrested in Suffolk outside of office working hours, who is due to attend court the following working day.

NB: This is not a Child in Care arrangement; children are not being looked after under the Children Act 1989.

#### **2. What time will the child be available for transfer to the PACE bed carer?**

If the referral is received after midnight is it practical and in the child's best interest to transfer the child to the PACE bed? E.g.:

- will they have time to travel and to sleep before having to present to court the next morning?
- are they already asleep and settled in the police cell?
- are they particularly vulnerable or upset and even though it is very late they would benefit from being transferred to a PACE foster carer.

#### **3. What are the risks?**

Discuss with the arresting officer any risk the child presents to themselves or the foster carer relating to the offence they have been charged with. Children should not be detained in a Police cell unless there is a serious risk of harm.

Discuss with the arresting officer the current presentation of the child and whether their behaviour presents any risks to themselves or the foster carer. Children should not be detained in a Police cell unless there is a serious risk of harm.

Ensure that the Police are aware that this is equivalent to a 'fostering' arrangement and is **not a secure bed. The PACE foster carer or the Martlesham Emergency Bed will not keep the young person locked up.**

**The child's eligibility and suitability for a PACE bed must be clearly established with the arresting officers at the PIC – prior to the PACE bed carer or the Martlesham Emergency Bed being 'activated'.**

#### **4. Travel arrangements from the PIC to the PACE bed**

Sometimes the Police are able to provide transport to the PACE bed and it is advisable to have this discussion with the arresting officer. However, it is social care's responsibility to transport the child from the PIC to the PACE bed. The Suffolk PACE bed foster carer should be able to pick the child up from PIC.

Suffolk's current PACE bed carer is unlikely to travel to the Great Yarmouth PIC and not able to transport to Norwich court the following morning. Therefore, if the child has been arrested in Great Yarmouth PIC a request can be made to activate the Norfolk PACE bed. Transport from the PIC to the PACE bed carer would need to be negotiated with the Police or with Martyn Lovett. If neither are available to provide transport there are currently no other arrangements in place and we will not be able to use the PACE bed.

#### **5. Travel arrangements from the PACE bed to Court**

Suffolk's current PACE bed care should be able to provide transport for the child to court or the local YOS office. Please discuss this with the carer to confirm prior to the child being transferred from the PIC.