

Safeguarding

Children and Health

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th July 2012.

Children's homes national picture

A Parliamentary working group is going to consider:

- why some local authorities send children to homes outside their own borough
- whether such placements can meet children's needs
- how well the quality of care is monitored
- whether areas such as Rochdale where there are high concentrations of children's homes are really the best "places for bringing up our most vulnerable looked after children".

Ministers also plan a second working group

- to examine how best to improve the quality of children's homes and staff skills.

Children's homes by English region		
Area	Homes	Secure homes
North West	514	3
West Midlands	335	0
South East	268	3
South West	210	2
Yorkshire and Humber	186	2
East Midlands	165	2
East of England	159	2
London	130	0
North East	107	2
TOTAL	2,074	16

SOURCE: OFSTED, AS OF 31 MARCH 2012

Children's Homes placements

- Centre for Public Scrutiny & IDeA:
 - Adult Safeguarding guide 2010.
 - Safeguarding Children and Young People 2009

Quality Care

Commission

- Safeguarding inspections

CHILDREN'S HOMES

- There are 2,074 registered children's homes in England, Ofsted records
- These homes offer 11,765 places
- There are 16 secure children's homes, providing 281 places
- Around three quarters of homes are run by private operators
- Annual fees per child can total £200,000
- There is a high density of children's homes in Margate, Rochdale, Blackpool and Worthing - large properties in these areas tend to be cheap
- 45% of children in care homes are outside of their home borough
- Police figures show an estimated 10,000 children go missing from care every year
- Government official data records just 930 children