

CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES

1. What is Meant by 'Cross Boundary Issues'?

A border is a dividing line, marking the boundary of an area. Due to differences in administration, organisations will have geographical and/or service boundaries. For example as a local authority our responsibility is Solihull borough. In contrast West Midlands Police has a regional boundary.

Many people don't think about the local boundaries they cross within their daily activity, but are aware when they cross the boundary of a country, as this often requires them to produce their passport to exit or enter.

Solihull is a Metropolitan Borough Council area of the West Midlands, situated in the middle of two of the region's larger city councils; Birmingham & Coventry. It is also bordered by Staffordshire, Worcestershire & Warwickshire. In addition there is an international border with Birmingham Airport.



2. Key Messages

- Be aware that other organisations may have or are engaged with an individual or family of concern. This may be because they accessed their services from a location outside Solihull, or because they have recently moved into the borough.
- When someone in need moves between Local Authority areas it's essential the transferring authority notify the receiving authority of the concerns and the nature of their involvement and plans.
- All involved agencies should ensure that they give timely and appropriately comprehensive information to their counterparts in other areas.
- Consideration should always be given to the resource being provided by the community a person is living in. For those already socially excluded, moving can worsen the effects of their exclusion and increase their vulnerability.
- Moving people away from a local area is not an effective long term solution to protect them from criminal gangs
 - Risks may increase by complicated cross boundary arrangements and it may be dangerous if organisations and professionals don't understand their responsibilities
 - Swift action is needed when safeguarding people who've been trafficked into the UK

4. Resources

- Birmingham Serious Case Review of a case that was transferring to Solihull
- Cross-Border Child Safeguarding: Challenges, effective social work practice and outcomes for children
- The Care Act (s39-s41) sets out legal duties when an adult with care & support needs moves from one local authority area to another
- Care Act Statutory Guidance
- Webinar - Best practice and guidance for using the UK's National Referral Mechanism
- Solihull Guidance for children and families moving across local authority boundaries
- Learning from Case Review for a Birmingham & Solihull case - Alcohol & Substance Misuse

Click on the text above to access each link

3. What Does This Mean for Me?

- Check what is expected of your role if someone you are working with moves areas?
- Are you familiar with cross-border procedures and local protocols? Check national legislation, statutory guidance & local protocols for circumstances and processes on how to help someone's move to another area be as smooth as possible and not negatively impact on their needs
- How do you contribute to a culture that values partnership work in your organisation?
- Do you understand what the National Referral Mechanism is?