

- (d) involvement in further education;
- (e) work undertaken by school children; and
- (f) the employment of children above school age (see paragraph 13.39)

23.14 Chapter 15

23.15 We recommend that in any residential unit for children someone on the staff should be designated to deputise in the absence of the officer in charge. Wherever possible this should be the same person each time and this responsibility should be clearly defined in their job description and recognised financially (see paragraph 15.25).

23.16 We recommend that a record should be made each day of all visitors to the children in a residential unit. This record should be available to be seen by all members of staff, for example, by being contained in the daily log or diary (see paragraph 15.26).

23.17 We recommend that there should be a method available for social services staff who may need information about possible sex offenders to check with a designated source at any time (paragraph 15.27).

23.18 We recommend that social services and the police should reach agreement and reduce into writing the following:

- (a) that members of social services staff who may need information about possible sex offenders who pose a risk to the children for whom they are responsible may telephone or otherwise contact a designated police information source at any time; and
- (b) that social services will specify the staff who, save for exceptional circumstances, will be actually communicating with the police information source: for example, the officer in charge of a residential establishment or the designated deputy (paragraph 15.28).

23.19 We recommend that consideration should be given by social services, if appropriate in conjunction with the fire service, to the best means of maintaining reasonable control over entrances and exits in residential units for children; and that clear instructions in writing should then be circulated to the relevant staff (paragraph 15.29).

23.20 We recommend that social services departments should issue written guidance to staff dealing with the topic of the protection of children in residential establishments and, in particular, covering the regulation and vetting of general visitors to such establishments (paragraph 15.30).

23.21 Chapter 16

23.22 We recommend that in respect of the placing of children in care in lodgings or other accommodation, social services should in all cases ensure that:

- (1) there is circulated a clear written procedure covering the vetting of such premises;
- (2) the premises are inspected and a written record made in respect of them;
- (3) the landlord is interviewed where practicable and always in the case of a resident landlord, a written record made;
- (4) where appropriate, and always in the case of a resident landlord, the landlord's agreement is obtained to make a police check (and such further checks as may be considered prudent);
- (5) the relevant information obtained and any further facts about the premises, and the respective sources of the data, be recorded in an accommodation register (paragraph 16.25).

23.23 We recommend that the Home Office and the Department of Health clarify or extend, where necessary, the present arrangements concerning the disclosure of the criminal background of those with access to children, so that a local authority, considering an agreement with a private sector landlord in respect of a child in care, is able without difficulty to make an appropriate police check (paragraph 16.25).

23.24 We recommend that revised arrangements are made for local authority social services to ensure that