



# Children Act 1989

## 1989 CHAPTER 41

### PART III

#### [<sup>F1</sup>SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND]

##### *Advice and assistance for certain children [<sup>F1</sup> and young persons]*

#### [<sup>F1</sup>23B Additional functions of the responsible authority in respect of relevant children.

- (1) It is the duty of each local authority to take reasonable steps to keep in touch with a relevant child for whom they are the responsible authority, whether he is within their area or not.
- (2) It is the duty of each local authority to appoint a personal adviser for each relevant child (if they have not already done so under paragraph 19C of Schedule 2).
- (3) It is the duty of each local authority, in relation to any relevant child who does not already have a pathway plan prepared for the purposes of paragraph 19B of Schedule 2—
  - (a) to carry out an assessment of his needs with a view to determining what advice, assistance and support it would be appropriate for them to provide him under this Part; and
  - (b) to prepare a pathway plan for him.

<sup>F2</sup>( 4 ) .....

<sup>F2</sup>( 5 ) .....

<sup>F2</sup>( 6 ) .....

<sup>F2</sup>( 7 ) .....

- (8) The responsible local authority shall safeguard and promote the child's welfare and, unless they are satisfied that his welfare does not require it, support him by—

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**Changes to legislation:** Children Act 1989, Section 23B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

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- (a) maintaining him;
  - (b) providing him with or maintaining him in suitable accommodation; and
  - (c) providing support of such other descriptions as may be prescribed.
- (9) Support under subsection (8) may be in cash.
- (10) The [<sup>F3</sup> Secretary of State ] may by regulations make provision about the meaning of “suitable accommodation” and in particular about the suitability of landlords or other providers of accommodation.
- (11) If the local authority have lost touch with a relevant child, despite taking reasonable steps to keep in touch, they must without delay—
  - (a) consider how to re-establish contact; and
  - (b) take reasonable steps to do so,
 and while the child is still a relevant child must continue to take such steps until they succeed.
- (12) Subsections (7) to (9) of section 17 apply in relation to support given under this section as they apply in relation to assistance given under that section.
- (13) Subsections (4) and (5) of section 22 apply in relation to any decision by a local authority for the purposes of this section as they apply in relation to the decisions referred to in that section.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 23A, 23B, 23C inserted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 35, s. 2(4); S.I. 2001/2191, art. 2; S.I. 2001/2878, art. 2
- F2** S. 23B(4)-(7) repealed (1.4.2011 for E., 19.6.2012 for W.) by Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (c. 23), ss. 22(1), 44, Sch. 4; S.I. 2010/2981, art. 4(g)(l); S.I. 2012/1553, art. 2(a)(e)
- F3** Words in s. 23B(10) substituted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), 75

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4(1A)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(3\)](#)
- s. 4(1C) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(4\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(3A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(4\)](#)
- s. 8(4)(k) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 52\(1\)](#)
- s. 31A(4A) inserted by [2014 c. 6 s. 15\(2\)\(b\)](#)