Specification and QAF:

Q. Who has the final say regarding the placement of the child?

A. The Provider. For example, DCC will not mandate the Provider to accept a placement if the suitability and matching with other existing placements is not appropriate.

Q. What are the expectations of the Provider at the exploration meetings (i.e. when a placement is turned down)?

A. The expectations of the Provider are to advise the reasoning as to why the placement was turned down. This meeting will not be a ‘punishment’ meeting it is more a case of identify why the case was turned down, and if there are any lesson learnt or areas that can be improved on in the future to assist similar or future placements being accepted in the future.

Q. Is there a minimum length of placement to either avoid over/under staying?

A. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Will there be support from a Social Worker throughout the placement?

A. Yes, support from a Social Worker will be maintained throughout the duration of the placement.

Q. What is the process for out-of-hours placements? For example will there be an out-of-hours social worker who can give authority to placements and/or budgets? And is there an Emergency Duty Team which can be contracted out of hours who are able to make decisions.

A. This will be reflected in the specification.

Contract Award:

Q. Is there a way we can share the risk between Provider and Authority?

A. The Authority bears the majority of the risk at present.

Q. Are there considerations for placements close to DCC and Cornwall/Somerset boundary. Will the child be able to stay in school if this is outside of DCC boundary?

A. The contract will be for those provisions registered within the DCC administrative boundary, there will be no exception to this.

Q. Section 4.4.6 of the spec needs to be amended. It is the social worker responsibility to apply to court for DoLs.

A. The clause refers states that placement providers must have due regard for this legislation, this remains correct and does not suggest the process for application where required.

Q. Providers need to be involved in the design of the contract.

A. What we are proposing following this event is to host a working group to assist devising a Joint Working Protocol for this contract. This group will consist of DCC Commissioning, DCC Placements, Providers, and DCC Operation teams.

Q. Is there a consideration of a RAG report in between the 3-monthly contract meetings to provide up to date picture of placements.

A. This will be considered and may be reflected in the specification

Q. Link with education is important but there is little/no reference in the QAF

A. This will be amended in the QAF.