

Education and Childrens Services

SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP

Disruption Meetings

Practice Guidance

2017

OUR MISSION:

‘To improve children and young people’s lives by working in partnership to raise aspirations, build achievement, and protect the most vulnerable’

Disruption Meetings

Consideration should always be given to convening a Disruption Meeting in relation to children/young people whose placement has ended abruptly or in an unplanned manner. When issues are raised that impact on the sustainability of a placement, a Disruption Meeting should be convened to prevent disruption of the placement. For children/young people whose adoptive placement disrupts, a Disruption Meeting should take place.

The Disruption Meeting should be chaired by the team manager. In complex cases, however, consideration will be given to these meetings being chaired by a service manager and/or the child/young person's Independent Reviewing Officer.

Those invited, or asked to contribute, should be:

- The child/young person;
- The parents (as appropriate);
- The child/young person's social worker/personal advisor and manager;
- The link worker/keyworker (for residential care) and home manager;
- The foster carer(s) and supervising social worker;
- The child/young person's Independent Reviewing Officer;
- The child/young person's current carers;
- Other relevant staff/professionals involved with the child/young person.

The meeting will ensure the child/young person (depending on his/her age and level of understanding) is given the opportunity to understand the reasons for and be supported with managing any transition.

When appropriate, foster carers must be supported to maintain links with children/young people who leave their care.

The precise agenda will depend on the child/young person and the particular circumstances in reference to the disruption of the placement. The chairperson should ensure the circumstances leading to the disruption are properly reviewed, and that all concerned are provided with opportunities to express their views freely with a view to establishing:

- How and why the emergency/disruption occurred;
- To learn from what happened and avoid the same thing happening again - for the child or others in the placement;
- To contribute to the future planning for the child;
- To identify work to be done and to ensure it is completed;
- To ensure that appropriate notifications and other post placement arrangements have been undertaken.

The chairperson should keep minutes, which must be circulated to all concerned and recorded on the child/young person's Liquid Logic and EDRMS file.

In relation to the disruption of an external residential placement, consideration needs to be given to further use of the resource by the authority.

In relation to the disruption of a permanent foster placement, where the foster carers are in-house approved carers, consideration should be given to holding an early Foster Carer Review to consider the foster carer's approval - see Review and Termination of Approval of Foster Carers Procedure.