

# Barnsley Childrens Social Care

## Visiting Framework

The timescales for visiting all children must be driven by the child's plan, needs and risk, but at a minimum as set out within this document



**Barnsley – the place  
of possibilities.**



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Practice Expectations	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions about when/how often practitioners visit are taken in supervision, with these decisions recorded on the case record and in the child's plan</li> <li>• Visits should always be in line with the child's needs and identified risk.</li> <li>• For statutory visits children will be seen at their home, will be seen alone and their sleeping arrangements viewed.</li> <li>• Children aged four and above will be seen alone at statutory visits unless there is a clear rationale, in agreement with a manager and clearly recorded on the child's file.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Manager &amp; Social Worker</b></p>
<p><b>Contacts made to Barnsley Childrens Social Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a Section 47 enquiry is triggered, the child is visited according to risk and need, but as a minimum the child would usually need to be seen (and usually seen alone) within 24 hours of the Section 47 starting or as agreed within the strategy discussion</li> <li>• If a Section 17 assessment is triggered, the child must be seen in a timescale agreed with a manager and always within 5 working days</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Worker</b></p>
<p><b>Child in Need</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum standard is every 4 weeks</li> <li>• Visits should be at a level to build and sustain a relationship with the child and carers and drive forward the plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Worker</b></p>
<p><b>Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children must be seen every 10 working days, at home and on their own where they are over 4 years of age.</li> <li>• Visits should take place within 48 hours of the initial case conference or as set by the Initial Child Protection Conference</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Worker</b></p>

- Visiting timescales should be agreed with a manager, be proportionate to the level of risk and need, and at a level that is needed to drive forward to the plan.

### **Children in Care**

- Children will be seen a minimum of every 6 weeks
- A visit should be undertaken on the day that a child/young person is placed or moves placement and then a further visit within 1 week
- Visits should take place at intervals that reflect the level and nature of the child's need, in support of the placement and in order to drive forward the care plan
- Whenever reasonably asked for by a child or foster carer

**Social Worker**

### **Care Leavers**

- Young People will be seen a minimum of every 8 weeks; and in line with their needs and wished
- Workers will make every effort to visit a young person and will speak with their manager if they cannot engage the young person

**Social Worker**

### **Children placed in an adoptive placement**

- A visit will be undertaken within the first week of the placement and weekly thereafter until the first review
- The frequency of visits is determined at the child's Adoption Review; but at a minimum of every 6 weeks
- Additional visits are arranged where there are any risks / needs identified

**Social Worker**

### **Privately Fostered Children**

- Visits should be undertaken within 7 working days from the date of notification to the Local Authority
- Visits should be at intervals of not more than 6 weeks during the first 12 month and at intervals of not more than 12 weeks in the second and any subsequent years

**Social Worker**

**Children with temporarily approved foster carers or parents under Interim Care Order:**

- Visits should be weekly until the first review
- Visits should be every 4 weeks thereafter until the carer is approved or final hearing completed

**Social Worker**

**Children made subject to a Care Order and placed at home with parents**

- A visit should take place within the first week of the placement
- Visits shall take place weekly until the first review
- Children will be seen at a minimum of every four weeks
- As with all visits, visits will take place in line with the needs of the child and their plan and as agreed at the LAC review

**Social Worker**

**Children Vulnerable to Exploitation:**

- Children will be seen at a minimum in line with the visiting timescales of the plan they are subject to. We understand the importance of building a working relationship with vulnerable young people and our level of contact with the young person will reflect this.

**Social Worker**

**Children reported as missing:**

- The child will be visited within 72 hours of their return

**Return Home Interviewer**



