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Leicestershire County Council

Policy on Ending of Foster Placements

Applies to – Children in Care

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Positivity



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Flexibility



Openness and transparency

Purpose of Policy Guidance

Leicestershire County Council provides a Fostering Service and has a Fostering Statement of Purpose. The aims and objectives of this Statement are child focused and clearly set out how the service will ensure we have good outcomes for all our children. These can be found in the foster carers' handbook.

Leicestershire's Fostering Service works in partnership with our children and young people, their families, and carers to provide safe, caring homes, where they can grow up happy and healthy which promote equality, respect diversity and values the differences in children and young people and help them to achieve their full potential.

This policy is to ensure that officers within Social Care, Commissioning and Business Support Finance end foster placements correctly by following the steps contained in this Policy Guidance.

This policy is to be applied to Leicestershire County Council foster placements and those we commission through Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA). Where the 'ending placement' is an IFA, the 'Family Placement Team' Team Manager is responsible for;

- The implementation of this process,
- Collation of information as part of the quality assurance process
- Escalating concerns in line with appropriate safeguarding procedures where appropriate.

Legal Framework

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (2010). Updated in 2015
- The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 4: Fostering Services (2010)
- Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013
- Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards (2011)



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Ending a Placement

There are several reasons that a foster placement needs to be ended;

1. **No placement move required** – for example CYP is moving back home, passed away.
2. **Placement move required** - CYP moving from fostering to a different type of placement for example Adoption, Kinship, Special Guardianship, new fostering placement.

Whatever the reason, the Social Worker needs to ensure that they follow **one of the four** processes illustrated overleaf. It is important that you follow the process and complete the actions you are responsible for as this affects the timeliness of payments to our carers.

It is imperative that **workers** inform **commissioning** as soon it has been **agreed** that the current placement will be **ending**, even if the actual end date is not known at this stage.

If placements are not ended in a timely manner, then **overpayments** to carers occur and, in some cases, may result in payments being written off which is a **cost** to the department.

Roles and Responsibilities

Social Worker - In the event of the social worker being notified that a placement will be ending the social worker must advise commissioning via email.

Commissioning will be required to update the brokerage tracker and advise provider of support

It is the responsibility of the social worker to ensure that an end date is confirmed as soon as possible and communicated to the commissioning team.

In the event of a child passing away the Social Worker needs to advise **Commissioning** and **Business Support Finance** as soon as possible, ensuring that the email is headed with high importance.



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If a new place is required then social workers need to follow the DSA placement process via Mosaic, if no new place is required social workers need to follow the [“No Placement Move Required”](#) process.

In the event of a child returning to their family (still LAC status), again the social worker must inform commissioning via email.

When an end date is known the social worker must complete “Placement with Parents” step on Mosaic. Procedure can be found [here](#).

Business Support Finance will end the placement on Mosaic once the “Placement with Parents” step is complete.

Where the LAC status is changing due to a young person nearing the age of 18 years, the Social Worker must advise commissioning as soon as possible, so that commissioning can issue rolling notice to the care provider if care will be ending.

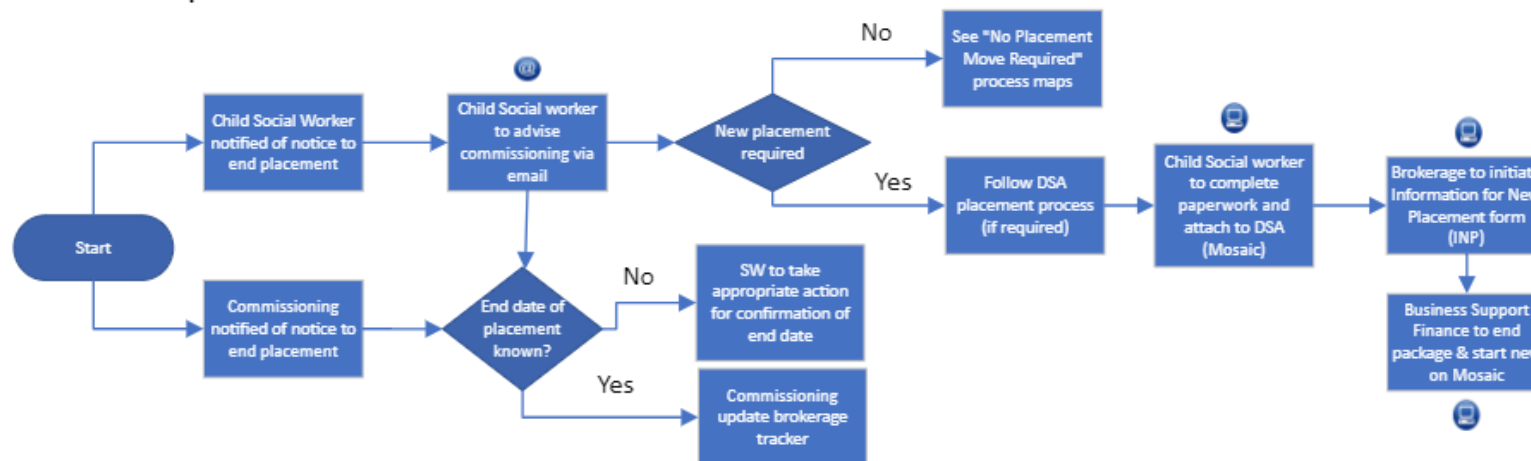
When the young person turns 18 the social worker must complete the LAC status step on Mosaic to confirm end of LAC status

If placement is not ending Social Worker to inform commissioning of Staying Close funding to be applied.



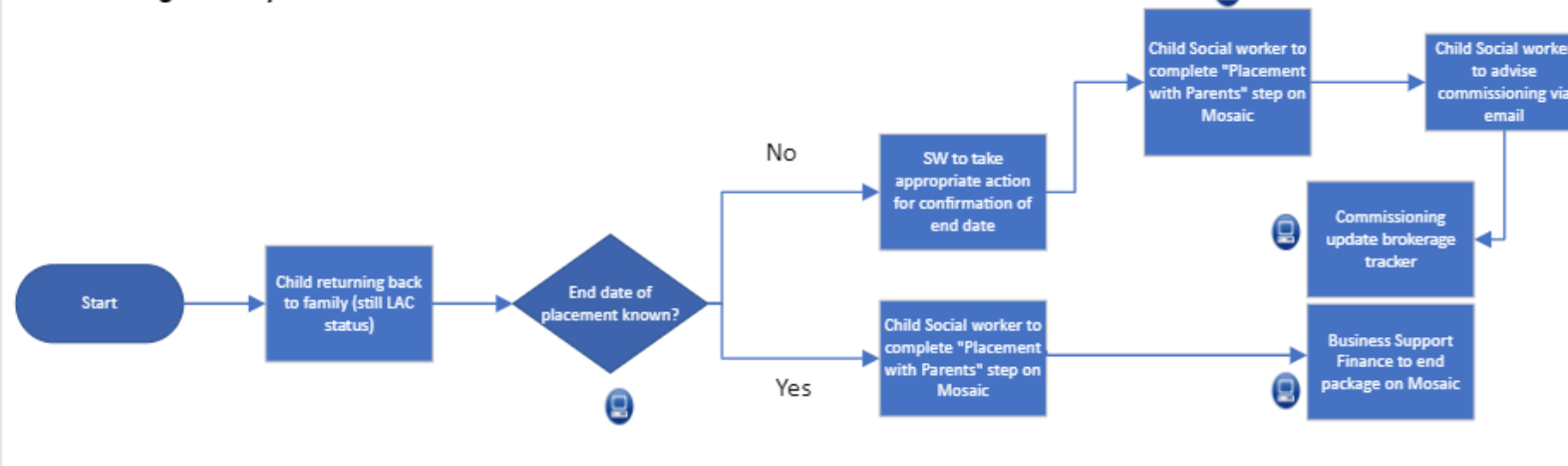
Mainstream Fostering

Notice to end placement



No Placement Move Required

CYP Returning to family home



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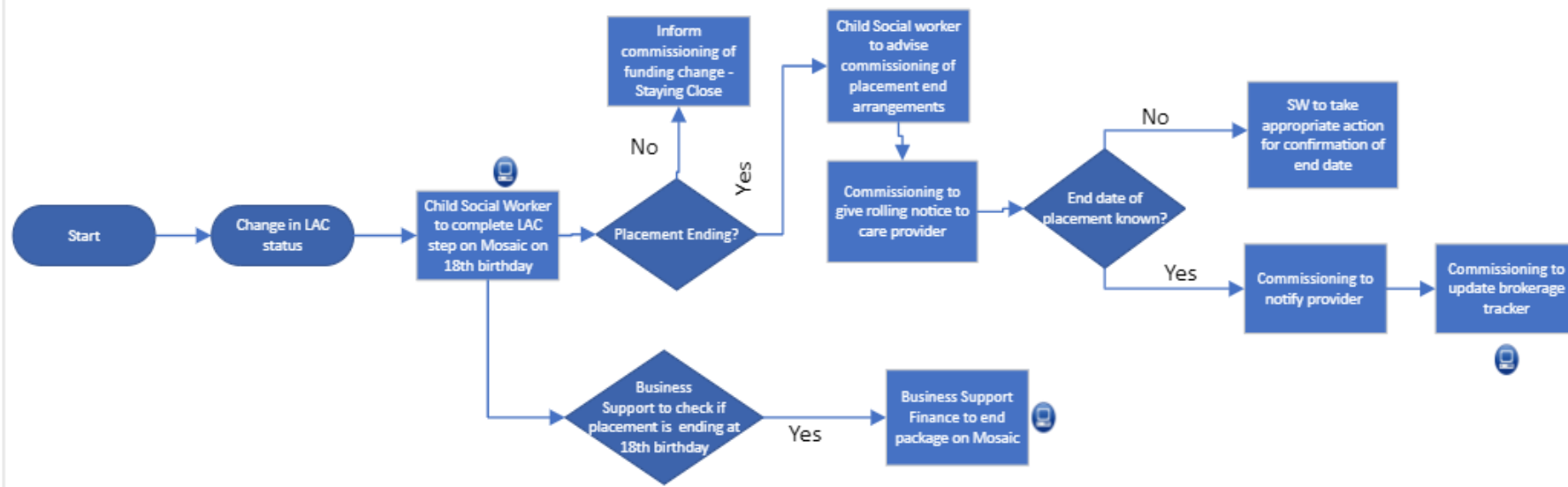


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LAC Status Change due to turning 18 years



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Placement Move Required

