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Leicestershire

Policy on Ending of Foster Placements – Quality Assurance

Applies to- Children in Care

Table of Contents

Purpose of the policy.....	2
Legal Framework includes	3
Ending a Placement Process	3

- 1.1 Leicestershire County Council is responsible for a Fostering Service. The Council has a Fostering Statement of Purpose. The aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose are child focused and show how the service will meet outcomes for children. These can be found in the Foster carers' handbook.
- 1.2 Leicestershire's Fostering Service works in partnership with children and young people, their families and carers to provide safe, caring homes which value the differences in children and young people and help them to achieve their full potential.

We aim to achieve this by providing:

- Safe, warm and caring family environments
 - Comprehensive support for children, young people and carers
 - Encouragement for children and young people to meet their full potential and to mark and
 - Celebrate their successes
 - Personal and group support for carers and their families
 - A flexible service which respects individual needs and values diversity
 - Measurable outcomes which strive to achieve, or exceed, National Standards
 - A professional service which is accountable, financially viable, and maximises partnership
 - Opportunities, and
 - Training opportunities.
2. This policy is to ensure that Leicestershire County Council complies with its statutory duty to ensure that looked after children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted by understanding the quality of provision we provide and how best to improve this provision through support and training to our foster carers.
 - 2.1 This policy is to be applied to Leicester 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 implementation of this process, collation of information as part of the quality assurance process and escalating concerns in line with appropriate safeguarding procedures where appropriate.
 - 2.2 The purpose of the policy is one means of quality assuring Leicestershire County Council fostering placements. Leicestershire County Council aim to provide good quality of care to our Children in Care. This policy should be followed regardless of the reason for the placement ending. This policy

ensures we take all professional opinions and children in care views into consideration when quality assuring our placements.

Legal Framework includes

- 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).

Ending a Placement Process

- 3.1. Where a placement has come to an end, for whatever reason, the Supervising Social Worker should ensure End of placement paperwork is sent to all parties for completion. The views and opinions of the child (if appropriate), the Foster Carer, Child's Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, and as far as is practicably possible the views of any parent with PR, as well as involved agencies, should be sought and recorded on the Foster Carer's file. A summary of comments is placed on the child's file
- 3.2. Responses to include comments using the End of Placement template;
 - The carer(s) relationship with the children
 - Were the carers able to help the child(ren) with their problems and develop their potential? (Consider areas such as managing behaviour, outside activities, education etc.).
 - How did the carer(s) cope with parental / relative contact?
 - What would you describe as the particular strengths / skills of the carer(s)?
 - Did you feel able to work co-operatively with the Supervising Social Worker towards achieving the aim of the placement?
 - Are there any specific areas for the carers future development arising from this placement? (e.g. additional training, support, safety aspects)

- 3.3. Planned Placement End -The End of Placement template should be completed by the relevant professionals and returned to the Supervising Social Worker for collation and completion of a summary and analysis of views. This should then be discussed at the end of placement meeting (the child's last Review of Arrangement) if this is timely. Where this cannot be achieved, the summary and analysis should be discussed with the Fostering Team Manager, actions agreed and the Foster Carer's chronology updated.
- 3.4. Unplanned Placement End - The End of Placement template should be completed by the relevant professionals and returned to the Supervising Social Worker for collation and completion of a summary and analysis of views to be discussed at the Placement Disruption Meeting and actions agreed. Where this cannot be achieved, the summary and analysis should be discussed with the Fostering Team Manager, actions agreed and the Foster Carer's chronology updated.
- 3.5. Other related actions to be completed:
- The analysis of end of placement information should be included in the next Foster Carer's review;
 - In cases where there are concerns the Supervising Social Worker should consider holding an early Foster Carer Review where any necessary changes to the terms of the Foster Carer's approval and Foster Carer's support and training needs may be addressed;
 - In the case of an unplanned ending of a placement where significant concerns of harm regarding the care provided by a Foster Carer is identified, the matter must immediately be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Ofsted and DBS where appropriate.
 - Where the Foster Carer is a 'Foster to Adopt' carer or where the Foster Carer is putting themselves forward to adopt a child in Leicestershire County Council's care, the Supervising Social Worker must make the Foster Carer's chronology available to the Adoption Assessing Social Worker.
 - Should concerns about a carer's practice or suspicions that a foster carers has caused harm arise during the completion of the process of ending a foster placement, the matter must be investigated thoroughly in line with procedures ([Leicestershire Children and Family Service Procedures Manual, Allegations Against Foster Carers](#)).