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# Temporary Approval of a Family & Friends - Connected Person as a Local Authority Foster Carer, to enable Immediate Placement of a Looked After Child/Young Person

The Care Planning and Case Review (England) Part 4, Chapter 2 (Regulation 24 & 25)

# EVENT

### **Assessment**

Child Assessed to be in need and requiring to be looked after or live away for home

## **Family Tree**

Social Worker gets details of all extended family members and significant persons who may look after the child

#### Analysis of the Child/ young person's Needs

Social Worker and Team Manager are satisfied that the child needs to be looked after. Family Group Conference Referral to be made

### Family Group Conference (FGC)

To determine who should look after and support the child

# Agreement for the Child to become Looked after

Agreement by Service Manager for Immediate placements and Presented at Access to Resource Panel

# **Looked After Child (LAC) Consent**

Social Worker obtains signed Consent for the Child to become looked after from parent or persons with Parental responsibility. Signed Consent for routine and emergency medicals and health assessment to be obtained

# **Reg 24/ Connected Carer Assessment**

Social Worker to complete assessment. Assessment to be passed to Family & Friends -Connected Persons Team -

<u>FamilyFriendReferral@northamptonshire.gov.uk</u> to Quality Assure against Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards

# **Approval and Sign off of Connected Carer Assessment**

Service Manager for Fostering & Adoption Team signs off the Assessment

# Fostering Assessment

Family & Friends - Connected Persons fostering Assessment to be allocated immediately & commenced by the Family & Friends - Connected persons Team

# **LAC Change of Circumstances**

Social Worker to complete LAC change of circumstances on Carefirst with details of the carer(s) and legal status for the child. Please follow the Permanency Planning Guidance

Regulation 25 – Extension of Approval – if needed

Fostering panel

# **TIMESCALE**

CORE ASSESSMENT
COMPLETED

10 working days – IA 35 working days - CA

As soon as date is identified

If Immediate – within 24hrs
ARP within 7 days

Before child is placed

Within 24 hours of decision to be looked after and prior to placement of child.

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Up to 8 weeks

16 week

Approval

starts

## **ESSENTIAL**

#### Assessment of the Child's Needs

- Consider care arrangements that do not require child to become or remain looked after e.g. Private Fostering, Residence Order, Special Guardianship.
- Can arrangements be supported through S17.
- If the child requires to be looked after by family member, social worker needs to get details of all extended family members, including their dates of birth, addresses, relationship to the child as well as strength of connection to the child.
- Social worker to consider the immediate and long term care plan for the child.

#### Family Group Conference needs to be held to:

- Discuss concerns about the child, with family members.
- Identify who in the family is better placed to look after the child and how the extended family network will provide support to the child and prospective carer

#### Please Note:

- All Assessments of Connected Carers must be checked and Quality Assured by the Connected Persons Team Manager
- A child cannot be placed with a Connected Carer
  - if Regulation 24/ Initial Assessment has not been undertaken
  - If the 16 week Approval has not been granted by the Fostering & Adoption Service manager
- Approval cannot be given by the Team Manager
- Only the Service Manager covering the Fostering & Adoption can give 16 week approval
- The Fostering & Adoption Service Manager Must record their decision within the Assessment and as a management decision in Carefirst Observations
- If the placement is not approved, please do not place the child. Alternative arrangements must be explored immediately.
- It is against the law to place a child with persons not approved or regulated to look after them

# Visits to the Child

- Initial visit to be completed within 7 days of the child becoming looked after
- Child to be seen weekly until 1st Review
- Thereafter child to be seen 4 weekly

Records of Statutory visits to be recorded in Carefirst (Statutory Visit eform within CareAssess)

# Fostering Assessment of Connected Carers

The Assessment must be allocated and commenced as soon as 16 weeks Approval is granted

All checks must be completed before the assessment is presented before panel

The completed assessment must be presented to the Fostering panel within the 16 week approval period

# **Extension of temporary Approval**

Application for extension must be made by the Family & Friends - Connected Persons Team Manager to the Fostering Panel Application for extension must be made before the 16 week approval end. The Agency Decision Maker will endorse the application following presentation at panel

The Assessment must be presented before panel within the 8 week extension period