

Private Fostering Procedure Flow Chart

NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT

Existing Private fostering arrangement - Notification to be made immediately

Proposed Private fostering arrangement - Notification within 6 weeks before arrangement is due to start

Notification required within 48 hours of arrangement starting

Notification to IFD on 0151 606 2008

IFD to gather information as set out in 6.2 of Private Fostering Procedure – SEE BOX 1

If notification given by private foster carer, IFD should also obtain information in Box 2.

IFD to refer to Assessment and Intervention Team

Safeguarding Unit to be informed

Lead Officer for Private Fostering to be informed

Social worker may request support of Supervising Social Worker to assist with the visit

Social Worker to visit the child and private foster carer within 7 days of notification and carry out tasks as set out in Box 3

Social Worker will write a report on findings from initial visit and load onto case file and record initial Reg 8 visit

Social worker will arrange for DBS check of foster carer, all members of household over 18 and frequent visitors over 16

Social worker will carry out: Single assessment; and, Private fostering Assessment within 42 days

Single Assessment to determine whether child's developmental needs can be met

Private fostering assessment to determine: Suitability of private foster carer to support child's need
Suitability of accommodation to support child

Social worker to discuss assessment with Team Manager

Decision as to whether child is 'Child in Need'

NO

YES

Reviews of CiN Plan to be undertaken after 3 months
Review of CiN Plan to be undertaken every 6 months after

CiN visits to be undertaken a minimum of every 20 working days

Where additional advice is required, the Team Manager may take to Legal Gateway

Team Manager will approve the report and comment on the suitability of the arrangements. Following which, a recommendation will be made to Lead Officer for Private Fostering approval.

Requirement placed on private foster carer

Requirement to be made in writing and noted on case file

Private foster carer prohibited

Prohibition notification to be made in writing

Lead Officer to determine suitability of arrangement

NO

YES

Visits to be undertaken every 6 weeks in first year
Visits to be undertaken every 12 weeks after 2 years+
Note of visit to be recorded on case file

IRO review of arrangement after 3 months and then 6 months until end of placement

Child to be returned to parent or alternative accommodation found

Notification of end of private fostering arrangement

Child turns 16

BOX 1. INFORMATION TO BE TAKEN ON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION

- 1.The name, gender, date and place of birth and address of the child
- 2.The racial origin, cultural and linguistic background and religion of the child
- 3.The names and address of the person giving the notice and any previous address within the last five years
- 4.The name and address of the proposed or current private foster carer and any previous addresses within the last 5 years
- 5.The names and addresses of the child's parents and any previous addresses within the last 5 years
- 6.The name and addresses of any of the child's sibling and arrangements for their care
- 7.The name and address of any other person who is involved in making the arrangement
- 8.The date on which it is intended that the private fostering arrangement will start, or on which it did start
- 9.The intended duration of the private fostering arrangement

BOX 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY FOSTER CARER

In relation to notifications given by the private foster carer or proposed private foster carer, the following additional information should also be obtained:

1. Any offence of which he/she or any other member of the household has been convicted
- 2.Any disqualification or prohibition (see section 18 of Procedure) Prohibition placed on him/her or any other member of the household
- 3.Any order of any kind made in relation to the child to be in care
- 4.Any other rights or power with respect to the child

BOX 3. The Social Worker will undertake an initial visit within 7 days to the premises where the child will live and carry out the following task:

- speak to the private foster carer and other members of the household;
- speak to the child, along unless the officer considers it inappropriate; and,
- speak to and if possible, visit the parents
- ensure that the purpose and likely duration of the private fostering arrangement is understood by and agreed between the parents and the private foster carers
- understand the wishes and feelings of the child, the suitability of other members of the private foster carer's household
- ensure that the parents are involved in planning for the child and explore whether the child's needs may be more appropriately met by providing services to the child and parent at home
- consider the suitability of the proposed accommodation
- consider the capacity of the proposed private foster carer to look after the child
- consider the suitability of other members of the proposed private foster carer's household
- check that the financial matters are in order and the contact arrangements are working (where the child is already placed)
- Ensure that relevant health and education arrangements are in place for the child
- Understand how decisions about the care of the child will be taken
- Ensure that the private foster carer, the parents of the child and any other person concerned with the child are being given such advice as deemed necessary
- Ensure the child's physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development is appropriate and satisfactory;
- Ensure the child's religious, racial, cultural and linguistic needs are being met;
- Ensure the financial arrangements for the care and maintenance are working;
- Ensure the child is receiving appropriate health care;
- Ensure the standards of care that the child is given.