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| Children’s Social Care andLearning | **Buckinghamshire County Council**County Hall, Walton StreetAylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UATelephone 0845 3708090[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk) |
|  | 07/04/2020 |

**Safety Plan**

This is a Safety Plan between Buckinghamshire Council, Ms CK (mother), Mr AW (father to L-R), Mr AM (father to M, P-D, E and F) and Ms BN(employed by Ms K and Mr M to support the family).

This Safety Plan has been formulated in response to the Court’s judgement given following the contested removal hearing in respect of L-R W, M M, P-D M, E M, and F M.

On 03.04.20 Interim Care Orders were granted in respect of L-R W and M M. P-D M, E M, and F M remain in the care of Ms K and Mr M subject to Interim Supervision Orders. Care proceedings are ongoing.

It is right to note that this safety plan is in place at a time of a global pandemic, where restrictions have been put in place by Public Health England to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Buckinghamshire County Council is operating a ‘Safe and Well’ service in light of this and there have been significant changes to how work is undertaken as a result. This safety plan has been formulated with this in mind, trying to find a balance between ensuring the children’s welfare is prioritised, but also their health, and the health of those involved.

**The Local Authority agrees to:**

Undertake announced virtual visits to see P-D, E, and F via video calling. This will be at least twice a week. To begin with this will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30am. The children and home conditions need to be seen. Once the Local Authority has information regarding P-D and E’s nursery placement and times then this can be reviewed if needed.

Undertake unannounced virtual visits to see P-D, E, and F via video calling. These will be attempted at least every two weeks.

Re-consider the need for a physical visit if any concerns arise and request agreement for this from the Head of Service for Safeguarding.

P-D, E, and F are on Child in Need Plans and therefore are subject to all of the support and processes as part of this. This includes holding Child in Need Meetings at least every 6 weeks.

L-R and M are Children Looked After. They will have Initial Health Assessments carried out within 28 days, Personal Education Plan meetings on a termly basis, and there will be Child Looked After Review meetings in line with statutory timescales.

Inform all parties if there are any concerns that arise.

Write a letter of support setting out P-D and E are vulnerable children so that they are able to have a nursery placement.

Communicate with P-D and E’s nursery placement on a weekly basis to get an update on the girls.

Assist Ms K and Mr M in relation to finding nursery placements for P-D and E if the nursery identified by Ms K is not able to have the children.

Communicate with Ms BNin her role in supporting the family on a weekly basis.

Seek to identify online parenting support for the parents to engage with whilst the public health restrictions prevent support being provided in person.

Promote contact for L-R and M with their parents and siblings.

The Local Authority proposes video calls for L-R and M with Ms K and Mr M three times each week. The Local Authority proposes video calls for L-R and Mr W twice each week. Short videos of L-R and M will be sent via the social worker on a weekly basis to try and help P-D, E and F to engage with these. Contact will remain subject to review.

There is no limit to messaging between L-R and M and the parents, save for the children can only use Lillie’s mobile at 5pm-6pm each day. Any text/WhatsApp messages to and from parents need to be seen by the foster carers.

**Ms K and Mr M agree to:**

Take P-D and E to nursery on time and with the necessary items every day once placements are available to them.

Inform the Local Authority and nursery (once the nursery placement has started) if P-D and E are not attending for any reason. They will need to provide the reason for this.

If the children are not attending because they are unwell the parents will seek immediate medical advice from the GP when necessary or requested to by a professional and inform the nursery and social worker of the same.

Work with the Social Worker and any other professional in a cooperative, honest and open manner.

Make P-D, E, and F available at all announced virtual visits. This includes allowing the social worker to see the children’s bedrooms and the communal areas of the home.

Make P-D, E, and F available for unannounced visits (this will rely upon a parent/Ms BN having a mobile phone with them when they are caring for the children).

Ensure their mobile phones are on so that they are contactable and professionals can speak with them. If the parents miss a call from a professional they will seek to return the call promptly and at least within the same day.

To allow professionals to undertake visits to the family if needed. Information can be shared by professionals beforehand with the family in respect of safety measures taken due to Covid-19.

Provide replies to any questions emailed to them within three working days.

Contribute to and attend (virtually if public health restrictions remain in place) all Child Looked After Review meetings in respect of L-R and M.

Contribute to and attend (virtually if public health restrictions remain in place) all Child in Need meetings in respect of P-D, E and F. Currently these will be held by phone conferencing or video calling.

Not use any illicit substances whatsoever.

Make themselves available and engage with hair strand testing as per the Court Order.

If the hair strand testing is positive to engage with Compass, the local drug service, in respect of achieving abstinence.

Make and maintain appropriate contact with health services to ensure that P-D, E and F’s developing health needs are met. This includes taking the children to any health appointments as necessary, such as the GP, Health Visitor, dentist, opticians, etc., and implementing any advice provided by health professionals. This also includes any telephone contact by health professionals with the parents.

Contact the Speech and Language Service in respect of P-D to ask what services they are offering at this time and secure the services for P-D as soon as practicable.

Work with Ms BN and the Health Visitor in respect of routines in the household. This includes mealtimes and bed times. In the event that BN is no longer employed by/regularly supporting the parents by going into the home every other day for several hours, the parents shall notify the Local Authority immediately.

Ensure that the children are appropriately supervised at all times.

Inform the Local Authority if Mr M returns to work, and if so his proposed hours of work.

Take the necessary steps that they can to register the family with a new GP in the new area no later than 15.04.20.

Engage in a parenting assessment. If they cannot make any of the sessions they are to promptly and in advance inform the parenting assessors and social worker why they cannot make the session.

Be available for contact with the children and also provide short videos of P-D, E and F for L-R and M – to be sent on a weekly basis

Once the public health restrictions are lifted Ms K and Mr M will seek and engage with the therapeutic support recommended at the conclusion of the previous proceedings, namely:

(a) couples relationship counselling over a duration of 3 months;

(b) Ms K to complete general counselling over a duration of 3 months to help her to see how she has developed unhelpful coping strategies,

including avoidance and emotional dissociation at times and

how she can be confident about interacting with and involving

others, including professionals, in the welfare of her children.

(c) Mr M to seek general counselling over a duration of 3 months to make more sense of the stressful situation he is in.

**Mr W agrees to:**

Engage in a parenting assessment. If he cannot make any of the sessions he is to promptly and in advance inform the parenting assessors and social worker why he cannot make the session.

Not use any illicit substances whatsoever.

Engage with Compass in respect of his drug use.

Contribute to and attend (virtually if public health restrictions remain in place) all Child Looked After Review meetings in respect of L-R.

Ensure he is contactable by phone.

Be available for contact with L-R.

**Ms BN agrees to:**

Be contactable when she is caring for the children.

Cooperate openly and honestly with the Local Authority.

Provide an update each week of the hours and days she has supported the family and a short note of the help provided.

Report any concerns about the children’s welfare in the care of Ms K and Mr M to the Local Authority immediately.

Signed:

Dated:

xxxx, Social Worker on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council

Signed:

Dated:

Ms K (Mother)

Signed:

Dated:

Mr W (Father to L-R)

Signed:

Dated:

Mr M (Father to M, E, P-D and F)

Signed:

Dated:

Ms B N (Providing family support)