



TO BE UPLOADED ONTO LIQUID LOGIC - CARE STORE – IN
LAC FOLDER

GUIDANCE

DELEGATED AUTHORITY - DECISION SUPPORT TOOL – CARE ORDER

This *Decision Support Tool* is to assist social workers, parents, foster carers and young people to talk to each other about delegated authority. It can help to prepare for the initial Placement Planning meeting and each subsequent review when the Placement Plan is considered. It is an aide to good practice in working with delegated authority. It does not replace or replicate the Placement Plan which is the legal requirement for this purpose. The required content of the Placement Plan is set out in Schedule 2 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010; relevant statutory guidance is in Chapter 2 of the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review.

The Decision Support Tool is supported and explained further in the Fostering Network's Handbook *Supporting Placement Planning*. It is based on consultations which suggest that the areas covered are those where it is particularly important to have clarity. The aims are to ensure that the Placement Plan:

- Is viewed as a living document that can change over time.
- Covers all the areas necessary for every child.
- Is as clear and inclusive of parents and foster carers as possible.

The *Decision Support Tool* is not a definitive list of tasks and responsibilities: over the life of a child's placement with foster carers, other areas will inevitably arise and require clarification and not all of the elements that are included will apply to every young person. In addition to preparing for planning meetings and reviews, its other uses are:

- To assist supervising social workers to prepare fostering applicants for the tasks in foster care and to assess their needs in relation to the *Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care*.
- For children's social workers to use with parents who need additional support to understand delegated authority.

Clarifying who is best placed to take everyday decisions depends on many factors: the young person's age, views, legal status and care plan, the parents' views and the experience and the views of the foster carers. Collaboration and consultation are essential for successful partnership working.



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CHILD / YOUNG PERSON’S NAME:

CHILD / YOUNG PERSON SUBJECT TO A CARE ORDER:

1. Medical and Health

Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task¹	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation/recording requirement/conditions) PR – Parental Responsibility Where there is more than one person who can provide consent in respect of parents and foster-carers, please discuss with both parties who this can be and add agreements into this document.	Date:
1.1 Signed consent for an Initial Health Assessment	Parent with PR / Service Manager / Head of Service		
1.2 Signed consent to emergency medical treatment including anaesthesia	Parent with PR / Service Manager / Head of Service / Out of Hours Manager		
1.3 Consent – immunisations	Parent with PR/ Service Manager/ Head of Service		

¹ More than one person could have authority to give a particular consent/agreement or undertake a particular task, e.g. both the parent and foster carer may be attending parents’ evenings. If this is the case, the individuals’ respective roles should be clarified in the “Notes” column.



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Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task ¹	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation/recording requirement/conditions) PR – Parental Responsibility Where there is more than one person who can provide consent in respect of parents and foster-carers, please discuss with both parties who this can be and add agreements into this document.	Date:
1.4 Planned medical procedures	Parent with PR / Service Manager / Head of Service / Out of Hours Manager if required		
1.5 Medical consent letter for use by the Foster-Carer	Service Manager / Head of Service		
1.6 Medical procedure carried out in the home where the person administering the procedure requires training (eg. child with disability/illness)	Trained Foster-Carer/parent		
1.7 Dental - signed consent to dental emergency treatment including	Parent with PR / Service Manager / Head of Service / Out of Hours		



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anaesthetic	Manager		
1.8 Dental - routine treatment including anaesthetic	Parent with PR / Service Manager / Head of Service / Out of Hours Manager		
1.9 Optician – appointments, glasses	Foster-Carers / Parent with PR		
1.10 Consent to examination /treatment by school Doctor	Parent with PR / Foster-carer / Service Manager / Head of Service		
1.11 Administration of prescribed/over the counter medications	Foster - Carers		
1.12 Permission for school to administer prescribed/over the counter medications	Foster - Carers		
1.13 Referral/ consent for YP to	Parent with PR / Social Worker		



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access another service eg. CAMHS			

2. Education

Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation / recording requirement / conditions)	Date:
2.1 Signed consent for school day	Foster-Carers / Parent with		



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Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation / recording requirement / conditions)	Date:
trips	PR		
2.2 Signed consents for school trips of up to 4 days	Service Manager / Head of Service	Information will be shared with parents with PR and Foster-Carers by the Social Worker and their views sought.	
2.3 Signed consents for school trips of over 4 days	Service Manager / Head of Service	Information will be shared with the parents with PR and Foster-Carers by the Social Worker and their views sought.	
2.4 School trips abroad	Service Manager / Head of Service	Information will be shared with the parents with PR and Foster-Carers by the Social Worker and their views sought.	
2.5 Using computers at school	Foster - Carer		
2.6 School photos	Foster-Carers / Parent with PR		
2.7 Attendance at parents'	Foster-Carers /		



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Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation / recording requirement / conditions)	Date:
evenings	Parent with PR		
2.8 Attendance at PEP meetings	Social Worker / Foster-Carers / parent with PR		
2.9 Attendance at unplanned meetings re incidents or immediate issues	Foster-Carers	Parents with PR will be kept fully informed.	
2.10 Registering at a school	Social Worker / Team Manager / Virtual School	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	
2.11 Changing a school	Social Worker / Team Manager /	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	



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Consent / agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent / agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation / recording requirement / conditions)	Date:
	Virtual School		
2.12 Referral/ consent for YP to access another service (please specify the service)	Parent with PR / Social Worker	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	
2.13 Personal Health and Social Education	Foster - Carers / parent with PR / Social Worker		

3. Personal, leisure and home life

Consent/ agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date



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Consent/ agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
3.1 Passport application	Head of Service / Assistant Director	Parents with PR will be kept fully informed.	
3.2 Overnight with friends ('sleep overs')	Foster-Carer / Social Worker	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.3 Holidays within the UK	Social Worker / Team Manager	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.4 Holidays outside the British Islands	Head of Service / Assistant Director	Local Authority will write a letter giving permission for the foster carers to leave the country. A copy of the Care Order S31 will be included within the paperwork. Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.5 Holidays during school term-times	Assistant Director / Virtual School	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making. Views of parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be sought.	
3.6 Sports/ social clubs	Foster-Carers / parent with PR	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	



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Consent/ agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
3.7 More hazardous activities- e.g horse riding, skiing, rock climbing	Team Manager / Service Manager / parent with PR	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.8 Haircuts/ colouring	Foster-Carer / parent with PR	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.9 Body piercing	Social Worker / Team Manager / parent with PR	In English law, it is illegal for under 16s to have their genitals pierced. It is also illegal for females under 16 to have their breasts pierced, although this does not apply to males under 16.	
3.10 Tattoos	N/A	It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to have a tattoo.	
3.11 Purchase and management of Mobile phone	Foster-Carer / social Worker / parent with PR	Views of parents with PR will be sought.	
3.12 Part time employment	Foster-Carer / Social Worker / parent with PR	The youngest age a child can work part-time is 13, except children involved in areas such as TV, theatre and modelling (these require a performance licence). Please refer to Gov.UK Child Employment Guidance for details.	
3.13 Accessing	Foster-Carer / social Worker /		



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Consent/ agreement / task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
and management of social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Twitter, MSN	parent with PR		
3.14 Photos or other media activity	Social Worker / Team Manager	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	

4. Faith and religious observance

Consent /agreement /task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
4.1 New or changes in faith, church or religious observance	Social Worker / parent with PR / Team Manager	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	



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4.2 Attendance at a place of worship	Social Worker / parent with PR / Foster-Carers	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	
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5 Identity and Names

Consent /agreement/ task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including notifications, prior consultation /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
5.1 New or changes in 'nicknames', order of first names, or preferred names.	Social Worker / parent with PR / Foster-Carers	Parents with PR and Foster-Carers will be fully included in decision-making.	

6. Contact



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Consent/agreement/task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including. prior consultation/ notification /recording requirement/conditions)	Date
6.1 Transport	To be discussed with Social Worker, Parent with PR and Foster-Carers		
6.2 Arranging	To be discussed with Social Worker, Parent with PR and Foster-Carers		
6.3 Facilitation	To be discussed with Social Worker, Parent with PR and Foster-Carers		
6.4 Formal supervision	To be discussed with Social Worker, Parent with PR and Foster-Carers		



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7. Other areas or categories

Consent /agreement/ task	Who has authority to give consent/ agreement or undertake the task	Notes (including prior consultation /notification / recording requirement /conditions)	Date

SIGNATURES:

NAME	DESIGNATION EG. PARENT / FOSTER/CARER/SOCIAL WORKER	SIGNATURE	DATE



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