**Private Fostering flow chart, updated June 2023**

**A child is going to stay with another family/adult within the next 6 weeks’ or is already there. Question for FAS, or Child’s Social Worker if the case is already open to services.**

Who made the arrangement?

The Child’s Social Work team

Carers stepped in as parents not available

The Child’s parent/s

The Child

This is a Child in Care. Follow Reg 24 temporary foster carer process.

Is the carer a close relative?

No

Yes

**END**

Is the child under 16, or under 18 if disabled (as defined by the Children Act 1989)?

This is an informal kinship care, family arrangement.

**END**

No

Yes

Is the plan for the child to remain, or has the child been in the arrangement for over 28 days?

Yes

No

This is a Private Fostering arrangement and needs to be assessed.

Is the child in Bristol to attend a language school?

No

Yes

Is the case already open to Children’s Services?

FAS sends the contact to the Kinship Team via the Private Fostering tray on LCS

Kinship Social Worker holds the case and follows Private Fostering process

No

Yes

1. Statutory initial PF visit within 7 days
2. PFAAR to be completed within 42 days
3. Statutory visits continue
4. Case to be held by Kinship Team for however long PF arrangement continues
5. Case is closed when child leaves

FAS sends contact to Area Team which the parent lives if in Bristol, if not the Area Team where the Private Foster Carer lives

Child’s Social Worker initiates PFAAR through Private Fostering pathway on LCS

Alert is sent to Kinship Team of Private Fostering case through Private Fostering tray on LCS

Child’s Social Worker manually initiates task on LCS to complete C & F assessment

**END**

Area CSW progresses the referral with outcome of Private Fostering

Child’s Social Worker completes initial visit within 7 working days, includes:

1. See the child alone
2. See the carer
3. Speak to the parents
4. Complete Private Fostering Agreement
5. Gain signed permission for PNC checks

Child’s Social Worker emails LSU for PNC checks

Do PNC’s contain concerning information?

No

Yes

Child’s Social Worker completes child’s section of PFAAR on LCS.

Child’s Social Worker will need to take immediate safeguarding action as Private Fostering arrangement is not appropriate. Reconsider care plan for the child.

**END**

Child’s Social Worker has a discussion with Kinship Team Manager who leads on Private Fostering. Agreement is reached on who to re-assign PFAAR to in the Kinship team.

Child’s Social Worker continues to visit the child at least every 6 weeks. This is logged on LCS as a Private Fostering Reg 8 visit with a duplicate CIN case note.

Kinship Social Worker visits the carer and gets consent for DBS and other required checks

Child’s Social Worker completes C & F assessment

Kinship Social Worker completes carers section of PFAAR on LCS within 42 days

Kinship Social Worker sends assessment to Kinship Team Manager for Quality Assurance and oversight of recommendation

Is the child assessed as a Child In Need?

No

Yes

Kinship Social Worker re-assigns PFAAR to the Child’s Social Work Team and the Consultant Social Worker authorises the assessment when all checks are received including DBS checks

Area Team to close case

Kinship Team maintain oversight.

1. Statutory visits continue
2. Annual Review is completed
3. Annual unannounced visit is completed
4. Case is closed when child leaves

What is the agreed recommended outcome of the PFAAR?

Visits under Reg 8

**END**

NFA e.g, child goes home, turns 16 (or 18 if disabled)

Consult Requirements, Disqualification & Prohibition Policy & take appropriate action.

Visits under Reg 8 and Take Further Action

Consult Requirements, Disqualification & Prohibition Policy & take appropriate action.

Take Further Action under Children Act 1989.

Concerns not addressed

Concerns addressed

Private Fostering arrangement is not appropriate. Child Social Work Team to change child’s care plan.

**END**

Kinship Social Worker visits the carer no less than every 12 weeks.

Attends CIN reviews.

Leads on completion of Private Fostering annual review.

Completes annual unannounced visit.

Child Social Worker visits child every 6 weeks for the first 12 months and no less than every 12 weeks thereafter. Visits are recorded as Reg 8 visits and CIN visits on LCS.

CIN process is to be followed.

Contribution to be made to the Private Fostering annual review.

Private Fostering case is closed when child leaves, turns 16 (or 18 if disabled) or the Private Foster Carer obtains an alternative order.

**END**