

**Getting it Right *Practice Standards*  
Working with Non-Resident Parents**

1. **Service area:**  Safeguarding and Children’s Services
2. **Date effective from:** 11 January 2016
3. **Responsible officers:** Senior Management Team Safeguarding and Children’s Services
4. **Date of Review:** July 2016
5. **Status:** Mandatory

* Mandatory (all named staff must adhere
* to guidance)  
  Optional (procedures and practice can   
  vary between teams)

1. **Target Audience:** All Children’s Social Care Staff
2. **Related Document(s):** All Policies and Procedures

###### Introduction.......................................................................................................................................

In Safeguarding and Children’s services we are acutely aware of the dangers that certain parents, both men and women, may present to children and young people; we are also alert to the need that children and young people require an appropriate parenting experience, both maternal and paternal, in order to develop a positive sense of self.

Safeguarding and Children’s Services recognise the need for all non-resident parents to feel actively engaged in all aspects of the assessment process, and are committed to adapting the assessment process to suit the needs of both parents of the child(ren), without alienating either the mother or the father or moving away from child focused practice.

Our Practice Standard has its roots in Child Development and its aim is to constantly ensure that both mothers and fathers are positively kept on the agenda when assessments are being completed, professionals are being spoken to, meetings being arranged and during ongoing social work reflections.

The goal therefore is to ensure that the roles of both fathers and mothers are ingrained in the thinking of all our practitioners and members of the professional network to manage and understand the global needs of their children and that all parents that present a risk have the capacity to change.

## Practice Standards.............................................................................

|  | **STANDARD** | **EVIDENCE** |
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| 1. | All Assessments and reports completed by social workers will include discussions with and about father(s) and mother(s) and where possible the wider paternal and maternal families. | Assessments  Observations  CiN, CP and LAC Plans.  CiN, CP and LAC Visits. |
| 2. | All Policy and Procedures will explicitly recognise mothers and fathers, the mothering and fathering roles and the child’s maternal and paternal experience. | Safeguarding and Children’s Services policies and procedures |
| 3. | All non-resident parents’ details, whether the father or mother, should be clearly recorded on CareFirst. | Care First |
| 4. | All non-resident parents will be copied into and sent letters that are sent to the resident parent, and other professionals as long as this does not present or create a risk to the child(ren) or the resident parent. | Assessments.  Meetings |
| 5. | All non-resident parents will be offered office appointments to go through assessments as long as this does not present or create a risk to the child(ren) or the resident parent. | Assessments  Meetings |
| 6. | Non-resident parents will be invited to all meetings that involve their children as long as this does not present or create a risk to the child(ren) or the resident parent. | Meetings |
| 7. | The views of all non-resident parents will be accurately recorded. | Assessments  Observations |
| 8. | The views of all non-resident parents will be given due consideration and any and all reasons for not adopting their views will be recorded accurately on CareFirst. | Assessments  Observations  CiN, CP Plans  LAC reviews |
| 9. | All non-resident parents will be given the necessary support and guidance regarding re-establishing links with their children, where appropriate and where this does not present or create a risk to the child(ren) or the resident parent.This will include referrals for family group conferences, family mediation or legal advice. | Assessments  Observations  CiN, CP Plans  LAC reviews |