

Fostering

Policy on Registered Managers' Duties

The Trust Board has granted the Chief Executive of the Sandwell Children's Trust the authority to approve this document.

Draft Policy on Registered Managers Duties

Fostering Regulation 35

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1. Introduction

The Registered Manager must maintain a system for:

- (a) Monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at regular intervals
- (b) Improving the quality of care provided by the fostering service

The Registered Person must provide the Chief Inspector with a written report in respect of any review conducted for the purposes of the above, and, on request, to any local authority.

The system referred to above must provide for a system of consultation with foster carers, children placed with foster carers, and the placing authority (unless, in the case of a voluntary organisation, it is also the placing authority).

2. Requirements under Schedule 6

The Registered Manager must monitor and keep a record of the following areas:

- Compliance in relation to each child placed with foster carers, with the child's care plan
- All accidents, injuries and illnesses of children placed with foster carers
- Complaints in relation to children placed with foster carers and their outcomes
- Any allegations or suspicions of abuse or neglect in respect of children placed with foster carers and the outcome of any investigation
- Recruitment records and the conduct of required checks of new workers
- Notification of events listed in Schedule 7
- Any child missing from the foster carers home without permission
- Use of any measures of restraint, control or discipline in respect of children accommodated in a foster home

- Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child placed with foster carers
- Where applicable, the standard of any education provided by the fostering service
- Records of assessments
- Records of fostering panel minutes
- Records of appraisals of staff members.
- Records of team meetings

3. Reporting

A report on the matters within Schedule 6 is to be completed quarterly by the Registered Manager and signed off by the Responsible Individual.

The Regulation 35 report shall be completed annually by the Registered Manager, signed off by the Responsible Individual, and submitted to the Chief Inspector.

The purpose of this report is to monitor and provide reassurance to all about the quality of care foster carers within the agency is providing to children and young people. The agency shall monitor placement stability, matching, disruptions and placement breakdowns. In order to provide this information, performance data will be required and Supervising Social Workers should provide an account to their manager of any of these activities, which will filter through to the Registered Manager.

More specifically, the report shall include:

- Any learning from breakdowns, what the agency has drawn from it and how the agency structure and delivery can be improved.
- Information on how robustly the agency matches children to carers, to improve placement stability.
- Evidence of consultation with carers and children and the 'placing authority' which will be Sandwell Children's Trust.
- Information about recruitment and staffing, operational structure, demand and caseloads.
- Information on the progress of children in education and how the agency evidences challenge
- Evidence of continuous improvement, looking at previous actions and identifying future actions.