

FREQUENCY AND GUIDANCE FOR STATUTORY VISITS
CHILD IN NEED PLANS, CHILD PROTECTION PLANS, LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS

TYPE OF STATUTORY VISIT	TIMESCALES
CHILD IN NEED – to start once a CIN plan has been developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least once every 20 working days (from and including the day of the visit). Or more frequently if indicated in the CIN plan.
CHILD IN NEED (LIFESTAGES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least once every 12 weeks.
CHILD PROTECTION – to start once a CP plan has been developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least once every 10 working days (from and including the day of the visit). Or more frequently if indicated in the CP plan.
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (NOT IN CONNECTED CARE PLACEMENT OR PLACED AT HOME WITH PARENT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First visit from the child becoming looked after to take place within 7 days of being placed (not working days). Thereafter, at least 6 weekly (not working days). The timescale for visits to be from and including the day of the visit. Thereafter, and only with agreement from a Head of Service, timescales can reduce to a minimum of once every 12 weeks. This timescale can only be reduced if the child has been in the same placement for a period of at least 12 months and also has been permanently matched with the foster-carer. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the Assistant Director can the visiting frequency reduce to 6 monthly.
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED UNDER REGULATION 24 OR WHERE AN INTERIM CARE ORDER IS IN PLACE AND THE CHILD IS STILL LIVING WITH THE PARENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child must be visited at least weekly until the time of the first LAC review. Subsequent visits must take place at intervals of not more than 4 weeks until the carer is approved as a Connected Carer or care proceedings have concluded.
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED BACK HOME WITH PARENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child who is subject to a Care Order but placed back home with parents must be visited within 1 week of the making of the Care Order and then at intervals of no more than 6 weeks. A child who is subject to a Care Order but is placed back home with parents before the assessment is completed must be visited at least weekly until the time of the first LAC review and subsequently at intervals of not more than 6 weeks or until the completion of the assessment.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WHO CHANGE PLACEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child who moves placement must be visited within 1 week of the start of any subsequent placement.
LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE WHERE ACCOMMODATION IS NOT PROVIDED BY THE RESPONSIBLE LOCAL AUTHORITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the young person is in living arrangements made by another person, such as a sentenced young person in secure accommodation or a young offender institution, they must be visited within 1 week of the start of the living arrangements. Subsequent visits must take place every 6 weeks for the first year and at intervals of no more than 3 months in any subsequent year.
PRIVATE FOSTERING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First visit within 1 week of placement (not working days) or the date when notification was received if later. • Thereafter, visits will be every 6 weeks in the first year. • Thereafter, visits must be at least every 3 months.
CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adoption Agencies Regulations specify that a child should be visited within 1 week (not working days) of placement and thereafter weekly until the first Adoption Review. The weekly visits can be shared between the child's Social Worker and the Adoption Social Worker but clarity from the outset is required. • There is no statutory visiting frequency following the first Adoption Review but good practice suggests the frequency for LAC should be followed up until the second Adoption Review and until the Adoption Order is granted.
CARE LEAVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least once every 8 weeks.

GUIDANCE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

FOR CHILD IN NEED AND CHILD PROTECTION STATUTORY VISITS:

- Challenge safeguarding concerns.
- Assess stability of home environment.
- See family and others in the home.
- Assess how the child engages with family.
- Address specific issues raised in plans and reviews.
- Assess progress of any interventions.

FOR ALL VISITS:

- See the child/see the child alone.
- See the child's bedroom.

- Ask the child how they feel and for their views about their life.
- If a child is too young to provide their views or is unable to provide their views through disability, observations to be made regarding their presentation and interaction with family members.
- Observe relationships.
- Assess health, welfare, religious, cultural, social and educational needs – are they being addressed.
- Prepare for the next review with the child. How to capture their wishes and feelings.
- Note any significant events/changes to the plan.

FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN:

- Assess stability and review suitability of placement.
- Observe how child engages with the carer.
- Note carer issues.
- Assess contact arrangements.