**DfE Codes**

**U1 to U6: Foster placements**

**Foster placement with relative or friend (U1-U3)** includes both immediate and emergency placements under Regulations 11 and 38, and placement with an approved foster carer who is a relative or friend. Where a placement starts as a ‘Reg. 11 or 38’ placement and the carer then becomes an approved foster carer, do not start a new episode but retain the same code if the child continues to be placed with that carer. Please see notes below for further information on when code U2 should be used.

**Foster placement with other carer (U4-U6)** should be used where the placement is not with a relative or friend, but instead with another foster carer.

**U2** and **U5** should be used in the circumstances described in the following paragraphs.

**Fostering for Adoption/concurrent planning (U2 or U**5) - a looked after child placed in a foster placement with carers who are foster carers and also approved prospective adopters who, in certain circumstances, may go on to adopt the child. The carers could be family/friends or strangers.

FFA/concurrent planning is not to be confused with placing a child for adoption and codes A3-A6 must not be used in respect of FFA/concurrent planning cases.

 **A3-A6** should only be used when the local authority has a placement order or parental consent to place a child for adoption.

In concurrent planning cases the effort is to rehabilitate the parents so that the child may return home. If that fails, and the local authority has a placement order or parental consent to place the child for adoption, the child is formally placed for adoption with the same carers who go on to adopt the child. At this stage the child’s legal status changes to “placed for adoption”.

In Fostering for Adoption cases, adoption is the likely outcome: the local authority are considering adoption for the child or are satisfied that the child ought to be placed for adoption but do not have a placement order or parental consent to place the child for adoption, but are seeking to obtain the order or consent. In these circumstances the child is placed in a foster placement with family/friends or strangers until a placement order or parental consent is obtained to place the child for adoption. Once the placement order/parental consent has been obtained the child’s legal status changes to “placed for adoption” and the child is formally placed for adoption with the same carers who then go on to adopt the child.

See section 22C(9A)-(9C) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by section 2 of the Children and Families Act 2014).

**Long term foster care (U1 or U4):**

The definition of a long-term foster placement came into effect from 1 April 2015 in The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2015. A “long term foster placement” means an arrangement made by the responsible authority for the child to be placed with a foster carer where:

(a) the child’s plan for permanence is foster care,

(b) the foster carer has agreed to act as child’s foster parent until the child ceases to be looked after, and

(c) the responsible authority has confirmed the nature of the arrangement to the foster carer, parents and the child

Any reference to the responsible authority placing the child in a long term foster care arrangement includes a situation where a child is already placed with the foster carer and this placement becomes the long term foster placement.

Further information about the placement of children in a long-term foster care arrangement can be found in the statutory guidance for local authorities about Care Planning, Placement and Case Review.

Please review any placements that may meet the definition of a long-term foster placement and recode them.

**A3 to A6: Placement for adoption** (supersedes A1 and A2) Adoption and Children Act 2002 - Section 18

Placed for adoption means the child goes to live with the prospective adopters who will adopt them. It does not mean that the child has been adopted. It is a placement, not a legal status.

Placement of a child for adoption may only occur if the local authority has decided that the child should be placed for adoption.

A child may be placed for adoption:

• with the formal consent of the child’s parents/guardian (Section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002); or

• with a placement order from a court (Section 21 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002).

A child may be placed for adoption with their current foster carer or with a stranger or relative who is an approved adopter.

The date to be recorded as the start of the placement for adoption should be derived as follows:

• The formal “placed for adoption” date agreed between the local authority and prospective adopters in the Adoption Placement Plan (regulation 35(2) and (5) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005). This applies whether the prospective adopter is the child’s foster carer or a stranger or relative to the child.

• Where a child’s existing foster carer applies direct to the court without the local authority placing the child for adoption with them, the date the adoption application is lodged with the court.

**A3: Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer** (under Section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act, 2002)

When a child’s placement with the current foster carer becomes a placement for adoption with parental consent (Section 19 of the 2002 Act) the local authority should use code A3 and record the date that the child’s placement became a placement for adoption.

**A4: Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer** (under Section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act, 2002)

When a child is placed for adoption with prospective adopters who are not his or her current foster carers with parental consent (Section 19 of the 2002 Act), the local authority should use code A4 and report the date that the local authority placed the child for adoption with his or her prospective adopters.

**A5: Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer** (under Section 21 of the Adoption and Children Act, 2002)

When a local authority has the authority of a placement order to place a child for adoption with the current foster carer (Section 21 of the 2002 Act), the local authority should use code A5 and record the date the child’s placement became a placement for adoption. This will be included in the notification letter to the foster carer (Regulation 35(5) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005).

**A6: Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer** (under Section 21 of the Adoption and Children Act, 2002)

When a local authority has the authority of a placement order to place a child for adoption with prospective adopters who are not his or her current foster carers (Section 21 of the 2002 Act), the local authority should use code A6 and report the date that the local authority placed the child for adoption with his or her prospective adopters.

**K1: Placed in secure accommodation**

Use for all instances of placement in secure accommodation, either where Section 25 of the Children Act applies (or would apply after 72 hours), or where the child is subject to a court ordered secure remand. 65

A list of secure accommodation can be found in Table 2: Places Approved and Available, and Children Accommodated at 31 March 2014 by Individual Secure Children's Homes (numbers and percentages)”

Do not use code K1 for:

• Detention and Training Orders under s73 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; or

• Detention under s53 of the CYPA 1933.

Note that while both of these are not recorded on the SSDA903, they are counted on SA1 (secure units statistical return).

**H5: Hostels and other supportive residential settings not subject to the children’s homes regulations**

Use for residential accommodation not subject to the Children’s Homes Regulations, but where some supervisory or advice staff are employed (although they do not have to live on the premises). This placement code includes hostels, foyers, YMCAs. Also includes lodgings, flats and bedsits where supervisory staff or advice workers are specifically employed and available to provide advice and support to the residents. These support staff do not have to live on the premises, but must be an integral part of a formal support service provided by the place of residence. Placements in category H5 are therefore distinguished from those in P2 (independent living where no formal support structure is provided as part of the accommodation).

**K2: Placed in homes**

Children’s Homes are very diverse; use for all children's homes which fall within the meaning of Section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended 2011) (except where the child is placed in a Secure Children’s Home where K1 should be used). This code should be used for children placed in schools that are dual-registered as Children's Homes, as defined in Section 1 (6) of the Care Standards Act 2000.

**R1: Residential care homes Registered Homes Act 1984**

Applies to Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes that fall within the scope of the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended 2011). The services they provide will normally include an element of personal care or nursing care. ‘Personal care’ in this instance generally means help with personal activities such as feeding, washing, etc. This category does not include hospitals, or facilities provided by NHS/Health Trusts.

**R2: NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical/nursing care**

Use for hospitals of all kinds when the child is placed there as part of the Care Plan. (temporary spells in hospital receiving treatment for injuries or illness does not fall in this

category and are not normally recorded on the SSDA903). Also use for other facilities provided by Health Trusts.

**R3: Residential family centre or mother and baby unit**

Use for placement in a residential family centre, as defined in Section 4 (2) of the Care Standards Act 2000, or a placement in a residential facility for mothers and babies (except hospitals and other NHS facilities). This placement type should also be used if a child is placed with their mother in a Women’s Refuge.

**R5: Young offender institute or prison**

Use for looked after young people who are accommodated in one of these settings. These will generally be children (either on remand or serving a sentence) who have a concurrent care order.

**S1: School**

Use for any placement in a residential school, except schools that are dual-registered as children's homes, as defined in Section 1(6) of the Care Standards Act 2000.

**P1: Placed With own parents or other person with parental responsibility**

Use for any placement with a child’s own parents, or other person with parental responsibility (as defined in the Children Act). This placement code is not limited to children under care orders. However, short planned home breaks for children accommodated under Section 20 should be coded in line with our instructions, and regarded for SSDA903 purposes, as periods out of care if they last eight days or more.

**P2: Independent living, eg in flat, lodgings, bedsit, B&B or with friends, with or without formal support**

Use where the young person is living independently. Visiting support may be included as part of the package.

**P3: Residential employment**

Use for apprenticeships and employment training where there is a clear employment component, and accommodation is provided.

**Z1: Other placement** (not listed above)

Use this code exceptionally, where the placement does not reasonably fit any of the other categories provided above. It does not mean ‘information not known’ or ‘not available’.This would include a young person who went to stay with a family member, that was not part of a planned placement move. If the family member then becomes an approved foster carer then this will change to a placement with a foster care who is a friend or family member (codes U1 to U3).

How do I treat planned temporary placements

**T0 and T1 to T4: Temporary placements**

The use of these codes is discretionary. Local authorities have the option of either:

• recording on the SSDA903 temporary placements; or

• ignoring them, and treating the main placement as a single on-going placement.

If local authorities elect to record temporary placements, then these must be recorded for all children. When recording them local authorities have an option of codes they may use. They can either:

• use code T0 for all temporary moves; or

• use codes T1 to T4 which describes the different types

T0: All temporary placements

Use this code for all types of temporary placements.

**T1: Temporary periods in hospital**

Use this code for periods of hospitalisation for treatment of injury or acute illness. These placements can last up to 42 days. Note that periods in hospital for the treatment of chronic conditions, where the placement in a medical environment is primarily to provide specialist care, should be coded R2. 69

**T2: Temporary absences of the child on holiday**

Use for when the child goes away temporarily, with or without his/her carers, for recreational purposes. This code covers the same kinds of break in the same kinds of holiday setting that a non-looked after child might receive, including activities such as school trips and summer camps. There is no time limit for such holidays.

**T3: Temporary accommodation whilst normal foster carer is on holiday**

Use for a temporary planned stay with a substitute carer when the child's regular foster carer is away from home on a holiday, or is having a break from caring for the child. The child may move to stay with a different foster carer or to a Residential Unit, or may be cared for by a substitute foster carer coming into the home of the child's regular carer.

Note that only two breaks of up to 21 days can be recorded in this way in any 12 month period. Third or subsequent holidays of the carer of less than 8 days duration should be coded T4. Third or subsequent holidays of the carer of more than 8 days duration cannot be recorded as a temporary placement.

We expect local authorities to make every effort to reduce the instability caused due to a foster carer going on holiday. In the very rare circumstance that the care of a child is shared between two foster carers, and this was the intention, this can be treated as one T3 episode. However, if it was not planned that the care of the child would be shared, then both placements must be recorded.

**T4: Temporary accommodation for seven days or less** (for any reason)

Use for stays away from the established placement, not covered by codes T1 to T3, of seven consecutive days or less for any reason, providing always there is a clear expectation at the outset that the child will be returning to his/her established placement.

To qualify for this code, the temporary placement must meet the following criteria:

• it must be planned, in the sense that the break is caused by, or designed to meet, a specific contingency; and

• there must be a clear expectation, before the move takes place, that the child will be returning to his/her original placement. If there is no such expectation, or if the child does not return (regardless of the intention) within eight days, the break does not qualify as being a temporary placement.

Virtually any reasonable reason for the break away from the normal place of residence can qualify as a specific contingency for the purposes of T4. Examples include:

• trial home leave;

• brief stays with relative to maintain contact with the child;

• normal place of residence temporarily unfit due to fire or structural damage;

• third, or subsequent holidays of the normal foster carer;

• half term holidays

Children in a temporary placement of more than seven days

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Placement of child** |
|  |  | **At home** | **Elsewhere** |
| **Legal status of child**  | **Care order**  | Placed with parents (P1)  | Relevant placement code  |
| **Section 20** | Not looked after | Relevant placement code |