

**ONE MINUTE GUIDE: PLACING WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

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| **What is it?** |
| When a child becomes Looked After, consideration should be given to whether that child can be cared for by a Connected Person in the first instance before requesting a foster placement.A Connected Person is defined as ‘relative, friend or other person connected with a child (personally or professionally)’. A relative is defined as ‘a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of biological connection or by marriage or civil partnership), or step-parent. A Connected Person is someone who does not have Parental Responsibility. Connected Persons **must** be approved as foster carers under Fostering Regulations 2011 **before** the child is placed. Where the arrangement is made privately between those who hold Parental Responsibility and the carer **and** where this arrangement is for 28 days or more, Private Fostering procedures apply. |

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| **Emergency or Immediate Placements** |
| In emergency situations, Connected Persons can be given temporary approval by the Nominated Officer (Service Manager for Fostering or Adoption) on submission of an Initial Viability Assessment (IVA). Link to IVA procedure [5.1.11 Placements with Connected Persons (proceduresonline.com)](https://northamptonshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_place_conn_pers.html?zoom_highlight=connected+person)The IVA has to include:* The nature and quality of any existing relationship with the child(ren)
* Their capacity to care for the child(ren) concerned
* Their capacity to promote positive contact between the child(ren) and their parents
* Their health
* The composition of the household and family relationships
* Family history
* Police check for criminal offences of every adult in the household
* Employment status and sources of income
* Neighbourhood and resources

In an emergency situation, the IVA is completed by the child’s social worker and the Connected Persons Team should be consulted to ensure that fostering regulations are met.Once the IVA is completed, the social worker’s Team Manager, Service Manager and Connected Persons Team Manager for signatures. Once these signatures have been completed, the IVA should be sent to the child care team’s Strategic Manager who will be able to consider regulating the placement and starting the process of fostering allowance payments and full assessment. The Nominated Officer must also be notified in order that they can give Temporary approval. The Temporary approval will last for 16 weeks during which time a full assessment **must** be completed. |

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| **Non-emergency placements** |
| In non-emergency situations, an IVA should be completed jointly by the child’s social worker and the Connected Person’s social worker.Once the IVA is completed (and is positive), the same procedure applies as in emergency situations. If the child is going to be placed prior to the full assessment being undertaken, the IVA must also be authorised by the relevant child care team Strategic Manager.The placement can only continue after 16 weeks if the carer is approved as a foster carer.It can be possible to extend the temporary approval by 8 weeks in exceptional circumstances. The views of the IRO and child’s social worker must be obtained prior to the extension of the temporary approval being sought. |

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| **After placing the child**  |
| Once temporary approval has been obtained, the Connected Persons are entitled to the same support, training, services and allowances as a foster carer. This includes:* Placement Planning Meeting to be held within 72 hours of the child being placed
* A copy of the child’s Care Plan
* A copy of the S.20 Agreement/ICO or Police Protection paperwork
* A signed copy of LAC medical consent paperwork
* Delegated Authority document

If the child is placed in a different local authority area, the social worker must notify the relevant local Children’s Services Department. |

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| **Important points** |
| * A child **cannot** be placed with a Connected Person if
1. An IVA has not been undertaken
2. The 16 week Approval has not been granted
* Temporary approval to Connected Persons **cannot** be given by the Team Manager
* Temporary approval can only be given by the Nominated Officer
* A visit to the child has to be completed within 7 days of the child becoming Looked After
* The child should be seen weekly thereafter until the initial CIC review
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**IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PLACE A CHILD WITH PERSONS NOT APPROVED OR REGULATED TO LOOK AFTER THEM**