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**Agreed Protocol Standards in Relation to Long Term Fostering Matches**

* Following the agreement of a long-term fostering match or SGO of children with foster carers a formal celebration should be planned. This will be a celebration of permanence.
* For children living in a permanent family based matched arrangement there will be an expectation that the foster carer continues to promote and celebrate the child’s life story and history. The social worker for the child and supervising social worker for the foster carer will review this twice per year. This will be the foundation of life story work.
* Foster carers will be supported to understand the importance of family time and as children grow older will advocate for them being aligned to the lifelong links service to allow them to develop meaningful relationships with a wider family group.
* As good corporate parents there will be times annually where a joint visit will be made with the supervising social worker to see the child/young person within their family to celebrate and support the progress that they are making.
* Following this visit a joint letter will be sent to the young person capturing their achievements over the last twelve months which will represent their ongoing life story work.
* If there are issues emerging within the placement that are causing fragility, there will be an expectation that there is a social work visit jointly to the foster carer/s within five working days to look at a stability and support plan.
* A formal stability meeting will be held if necessary, within a further five working day from the joint visit. The focus of this will be to maintain and strengthen the placement to avoid disruption. This may require a request for additional support to carer and child which could include funding for bespoke activities, a TESS referral, Stronger Families involvement. The IRO should be informed of stability meeting and the outcome of the discussion.
* As part this stability plan there is an expectation that social work visits are increased in frequency and are kept under review at a follow up stability meeting within four working weeks.
* In the event that the foster carer feels that the continuation of the placement is not viable this would require further discussion with the supervising social worker and their team manager before there would be a decision that notice will be given by the fostering service rather than the foster carer.