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| **FAMILY TIME ASSESSMENT TOOL** | | |
| **Child’s name** | |  |
| **Mosaic ID reference** | |  |
| **Legal status of the child** | |  |
| **Date the child became looked after** | |  |
| **Regarding family time with** | | (List all individuals for whom family time with the child is being assessed) |
| **GUIDANCE NOTES** | | |
| Under the Children Act 1989 (s34) the Local Authority has a statutory duty to promote family time between a child in care and their parents / others with parental responsibility, provided this is consistent with the Local Authority’s duty to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare. Family time should take place regularly and consistently unless there are exceptional circumstances which prevent it. The Local Authority is able to suspend family time in exceptional circumstances, for a maximum of 7 days. Social workers and their managers should always seek legal advice before suspending family time. Any suspension beyond 7 days can only be agreed by the court. | | |
| **Factors to consider for the child** | Using observations and feedback from family time recordings, school, foster carer recordings and social work visits consider the following:  Impact on the child’s routine (feeding, sleeping, education and after school activities);  Impact on the child’s relationships and behaviours in placement;  Child’s age (chronological and developmental and any specific needs;  Whether family time reminds the child of harmful relationships / experiences;  Whether family time makes or is likely to make the child feel guilty or disloyal;  How the child will be made to feel safe during family time;  What messages are or could be conveyed to the child during family time;  Whether the child may feel rejected or upset by unreliable or poor quality family time;  If the child has multiple attachments, whether family time arrangements may be confusing for them. | |
| **Factors to consider for the foster carer** | What is the foster carers understanding of family time and their role in promoting this;  How the foster carers can prepare and support the child/young person with family time;  What messages the foster carers conveys to the child;  What worries the foster carers might have and to what degree these might be mitigated;  How foster carers could develop a working relationship with parents and how this might need to be supported. | |
| **Factors to consider for parents / relatives** | Whether they can meet the basic and medical needs of the child during family time;  The degree to which they are committed and motivated to attending family time;  Any missed or suspended (no more than 7 days) family time and reasons;  Whether the parent has or requires support during family time e.g. guidance on holding the child, talking to and praising the child age appropriately, ensuring safety, playing with the child age appropriately;  Any diversity or cultural needs that require additional resources or support. | |
| **Factors to consider for siblings** | The legal status of each sibling with whom family time is being assessed;  The degree to which the children understand their separate circumstances;  The quality of the sibling relationship;  Whether a sibling may pass on messages or information between the child and their parent / other relative;  The ages of stages of development for each sibling being assessed and how this compares with the age and stage of development of the child;  Any support the child and their sibling(s) may need to experience family time positively. | |

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| **Strengths**  Factors for the **child** associated with positive family time: |  | **Risks**  Factors for the **child** associated with difficult or detrimental family time: |
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| **Strengths**  Factors for the [foster/kinship/residential] **carer** associated with positive family time: | **Risks**  Factors for the [foster/kinship/residential] **carer** associated with difficult or detrimental family time: |
|  |  |
| **Strengths**  Factors for the **parent** associated with positive family time: | **Risks**  Factors for the **parent** associated with difficult or detrimental family time: |
|  |  |
| **Strengths**  Factors for the **birth relative** associated with positive family time *[insert individual names and relationship to the child]*: |  | **Risks**  Factors for the **birth relative** associated with difficult or detrimental family time *[insert individual names and relationship to the child]*: |
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| **Strengths**  Factors associated with positive **sibling** family time: |  | **Risks**  Factors associated with difficult or detrimental **sibling** family time: |
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| Child(ren)’s views about family time |  |

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| Parents’ views about family time |  |

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| Significant others’ (including professional network) views about family time |  |

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| Views of family time worker (where applicable): |  |

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| Analysis of the strengths and risks (particular to each person considered): | *[Consider severity, likelihood and the degree to which risks can be mitigated against]* |

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| Recommended family time plan (in respect of each person): | *[What is the proposed type (direct / community-based / indirect and by what means), frequency and duration of family time between the child and each person being assessed?]* | |
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| Comment on the family time in the current court agreed care plan: | *[What is the current court agreed care plan? Is that an interim plan or a final court agreed care plan? How does your proposal differ from that agreed in court? Legal advice must be sought for any deviation from the court agreed family time arrangements]* | |
| Support plan (in respect of each person): | *[Consider whether supervision is required and if so who will supervise; what should be included in a family time agreement, including risk mitigation]* | |
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| Review date: |  | |

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| Completed by (Name & Job Title): |  |
| Assessor’s Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Manager’s Comments: |  |
| Manager’s Name: |  |
| Manager’s Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |