Types of Care Experience

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|  | **Types of Care Experience** | **Type of Arrangement** |
| Homes for Children team | Fostering | Are approved Carers who offer foster care for child/young person and will provide them with the opportunity to live in a family environment providing a safe, stable, and caring home. A child in long term foster care will continue to live with their foster carers until they reach independence. They may also remain with their foster carers under a staying put arrangement once they reach their 18th birthday. |
| Residential Care | Residential care homes provide children and young people aged typically between 11-18 years, with a safe, stable and caring environment and receive high quality care, so that they can be supported towards family reunification where it is safe and appropriate, step forward to a family foster home, build their interdependence and trusted relationships for early adulthood, and always have high aspirations for them. It is recognised that for some children and young people, longer term residential care will be appropriate. |
| Family Based Short Breaks | These services are designed to support children and young people with complex needs and/or SEND. **Children between 0-18 years will be able to** access a flexible package of support which will include overnight breaks or part day and night packages to suit the child, and their parents or carers. These services have been extended to young people with SEND aged 18-25 years. In certain circumstances, and in agreement with the service provider and families, there will be the flexibility to consider delivery of family based short breaks with foster carers in the child or young person’s own home, where they may require specialist equipment, for example. These arrangements would be negotiated on an individual basis.  Carers are entitled to 14 nights respite as part of their package. |
| Supported Accommodation (16+) | Supported accommodation provides accommodation with support for 16- and 17-year-old looked after children and care leavers, to enable them to live semi-independently.  There are four types of supported accommodation:   * Supported accommodation in a self-contained unit, where the accommodation is for the sole use of the child or for the child and other individuals living with the child as agreed by the accommodating authority or the supported accommodation undertaking * Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises used to accommodate only looked after children and care leavers. * Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises which are not limited to accommodating looked after children and care leavers * Supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence which is the main residence of that individual or those individuals   This type offers a young person support in a nurturing environment, but it does not offer ‘care’. There a young person must have support needs only, and no care needs, to be able to be placed in this type of arrangement.  From 28th October 2023, Supported Accommodation will be regulated by Ofsted. |
| Supported Lodgings | Supported Lodgings falls under a type of supported accommodation (list above).  Supported Lodgings offer a young person aged 16 and 17 with support needs to live in a family setting with a ‘host’ family.This type of arrangement is similar to a fostering arrangement, however as the young people have support and not care needs, the ‘host’ does not provide care to the young person – the arrangement resembles a young person renting a room in a family home, and the host offer support to the young person to support them to develop their independent living skills. |
| Residential Family Centre | A residential family centre is any establishment where:   * Accommodation is provided for children and their parents. * The parents capacity to respond to the children’s needs and to safeguard their welfare is monitored and assessed. * The parents are given advice, guidance and counselling, as necessary.   In this definition, ‘parent’ includes any person who is looking after a child. It may also offer services for parents aged under 18, who therefore children themselves. |
| Parent & Child Arrangements, Placements and Assessments with Foster Carers or a Community Setting | These placements, arrangements or assessments must take place in a fostering household supported by approved foster carers, or in the community, monitored by outreach support delivered by professionals. These placements or arrangements aim to enable parent/s and their child, where it is safe to do so, to have the opportunity to undertake a parenting capacity assessment, whilst being guided and supported by experienced and appropriately skilled foster carers. These arrangements can be offered as an alternative to a Residential Family Centre.  In this definition, ‘parent’ includes any person who is looking after a child. It may also offer services for parents aged under 18, who therefore children themselves. |
| Arrangements Made Directly by Social Workers | | |
| Arrangements Made Directly by Social Workers | Short Breaks | Short Breaks are aimed at families with a disabled child to give parents a chance to have a break from their caring role by allowing them some ‘time out’ to do something they would like to do for themselves.  Short breaks are also to enable disabled children and young people to be supported at home and within their local community. Short Breaks help to do this by giving opportunities for children and young people to take part in activities, meet new people and enjoy positive learning opportunities and different experiences.  Short Breaks can include support to access activities (such as sports, music, crafts, drama or community groups like Scouts or Brownies, youth clubs, holiday clubs), this might be through support from workers often called enablers. This could, in some instances, be for a limited time to help a child join in with an activity until they can attend independently.  Short breaks can last between a few hours, up to a whole weekend, or during the school holidays. They can take place at home, in the community or in a residential setting. Childcare settings can sometimes be used as venues for short break activities.  Support is also available in the home through short breaks, either to offer a child or young person’s parents additional support while they are there or to allow family members to take a break from their caring role. |
| Kinship | Also known as family and friends arrangement is where a child who cannot be cared for by their parent(s) or another person with parental responsibility goes to live with a relative, friend, or other connected person. |
| Special Guardianship | Special guardianship is a family court order that places a child or young person in long-term care with someone other than their parent(s). The person(s) with whom the child lives with will become the child's special guardian. |