

## Measures of Practice - Visiting

Timescales for visiting children and young people are determined by the progress of their plan; urgency of their situation; and the level of worry identified. The frequency of visits should be reviewed within each supervision meeting and amended accordingly, to suit the individual needs of the child. If there is an increasing risk, there is an expectation that the social worker and team manager would agree an increased visiting frequency, and that this would be recorded by the Team Manager.

The timescales below represent our minimum expectation about how often a child or young person should be visited; this is not the frequency we aim for but reflects the very least a child and their family can expect from us. Children and young people should be visited in relation to their need or level of risk, and whenever reasonably asked for by the child or young person or their parent / carer regardless of their plan or placement status.

|  | Our bottom lines / minimum expectations   | Responsibility                                    |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Early Help</b>  | <p><b>The child/family is contacted within 5 working days of allocation to arrange an initial visit, and then visited at least once every 4 weeks thereafter.</b></p> <p>The frequency of visits is set out in the child or young person's plan and is sufficient to enable assessment and intervention to be effective and to allow for review of the progress made.</p>                                     | Early Help Practitioners<br>All Management/ leads |
| <b>Children we are notified about - contacts made to children's services</b> | <p><b>If a Section 47 enquiry is started, the child is visited according to the worries identified and no later than 2 working days.</b></p> <p>The decision about the type of response that is needed is made within one working day of a referral being received and feedback is provided to the referrer.</p>  | Social Worker<br>All Management/ leads            |
| <b>Child in Need</b>   | <p><b>Children and young people are visited at least once every 20 working days.</b></p> <p>This may be sooner and should be set out in the Child in Need Plan. The frequency will be agreed with the Team Manager in supervision depending on the worries identified.</p>  | Social Worker<br>All Management/ leads            |
| <b>Children subject to a Child Protection Plan</b>                           | <p><b>Children and young people should be seen within 48 hours of a Child Protection Plan being agreed. Following this, visiting should be at the least once every 10 working days.</b></p> <p>(Note: Statutory visits can be undertaken away from the child's home, however, it is anticipated that the majority will be at home).</p>   | Social Worker<br>All Management/ leads            |
| <b>Children in Our Care</b>  | <p><b>Children and young people are seen the day they are placed, then within 1 week of the beginning of the placement and weekly for the first four weeks. Visits are then at least every six weeks for at least the first year of any placement.</b></p> <p>Visits may be more frequent depending on the child's needs and worries during the first year of any placement and as agreed in supervision.</p> | Social Worker<br>All Management/ leads            |

|  | Our bottom lines / minimum expectations   | Responsibility                                       |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>After one-year, visits should continue to be at least every six weeks, unless the <b>placement is formally agreed as a permanent placement</b> and is subsequently agreed within a Child in Our Care Review Meeting that the frequency can reduce. In this case, visits should then take place <b>at least every 3 months</b>. This should be increased should further worries be identified.</p> <p><b>Where the child has a series of short breaks</b>, they should be seen as a minimum <b>twice a year</b> in that setting (at least once unannounced).</p> <p>(Note: further below guidance in relation to those who remain at home with parents under an Interim Care Order and also those who are within their network with temporary approval in place).</p> | Child in Our Care Review Meeting                     |
| <b>Children and young people who are placed in a series of short breaks (short break care arrangements, or short stays with relatives)</b> | <p><b>Children and Young People are seen within the first 7 days of placement, then within 3 months of the first placement day.</b></p> <p>This should be at intervals of <b>no less than 6 months</b> after the first visit, and <b>unannounced at least once a year</b> if placements interval is more than 6 months. The child or young person's sleeping arrangements should be seen at least annually.</p>   | Social Worker<br>All Management leads                |
| <b>Children placed in adoptive placements</b>  | <p><b>Children are seen within the first week of the placement and weekly until the first review. Visits are at least every 6 weeks for the first year after this, and then 3-monthly until the Adoption Order is granted.</b></p> <p>The frequency of visits is determined at the child's Adoption Review, if not specified it should be every 6 weeks.</p> <p>Additional visits should be arranged should there be any identified worries, this will be discussed and recorded in supervision.</p>  | Social Worker<br>Team Manager<br><br>Adoption Review |
| <b>Privately Fostered Children</b>   | <p><b>Children and young people are seen within 7-days from the date of notification to the local authority to determine if the arrangement is suitable. During the first 12-months of the arrangement, visits are no less than every 6 weeks, and in every subsequent year no less than once every 12 weeks.</b> If the child is also being supported with a child in need plan, then visiting frequency must reflect this.</p>  | Social Worker<br>All Management/<br>leads            |
| <b>Children with temporarily approved foster carers or parents under Interim Care Order</b>  | <p><b>Children and Young People are seen weekly until the first review and then at least every 4-weeks until the carer is approved, or final hearing completed.</b></p> <p>Visiting frequency thereafter should be as agreed within the Care Plan identified for the child or young person and in keeping with the detail in other parts of the guidance dependent upon the circumstances and Order gained. Additional visits should be arranged should there be any identified worries, this will be discussed and recorded in supervision.</p> <p>Note: Assessment of such placements must be completed and temporary approval is required from the Service Manager, Children in Our Care - for such placements.</p>  | Social Worker<br>All Management /leads               |

|   | <b>Our bottom lines / minimum expectations</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>                     |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Children subject to a Care Order and placed at home with parents</b> | <p><b>Children and Young People are seen within the first week of being placed at home and then at least every 6-weeks for the first year.</b></p> <p>Children who live with parents subject to a Care Order can be visited at least every <b>3-months</b> or more if needed upon agreement within a Child in Care review and agreed by all parties, based on the needs of the individual child.</p> <p>Agreement for Placement with Parent Regulations is given by the Assistant Director.</p>  | Social Worker<br>All Management/<br>leads |
| <b>Children reported missing</b>  | <p><b>The children missing are be visited within 72 hours of the child's return, and a return home interview completed.</b></p> <p>The missing from home procedures are followed.</p>  | All allocated practitioners               |
| <b>Young people aged 18-25</b>  | <p><b>Young People are seen at least every 2-months by their personal advisor until they are 20 years old. After this, we have contact with them at least once every 6 months.</b></p> <p>We keep in touch via phone, text, email or alternatives such as video call based on the young person's preference and choice. The frequency and type of keeping in touch is agreed with the young person and set out within their Pathway Plan.</p> <p>Should the young person decline support then periodic attempts are made to engage them and to remain in contact until they reach 25 years old. All attempts are recorded.</p> | Personal Advisor                          |
| <b>Children in more than one placement type</b>                         | <p><b>Children and Young People are visited in each living situation, at least every 12 weeks (once every 6-weeks alternating).</b></p>  | Social Worker<br>All<br>Management/leads  |

