

BEDROOM ASSESSMENT – FOSTER PLACEMENTS

Guidance

Within our fostering families, there should be no bedroom sharing for looked after children unless the children involved are siblings. The aim of this is to ensure that all our looked after children are accommodated safely and in comfort, helping them to have sufficient privacy, personal space and room for play or study.

Children of differing genders may generally only share a room up to the age of 10 years if this is risk assessed, in line with the children's wishes and feelings and/or if the arrangement would enable them to remain living together in a foster placement.

Babies / infants can share the foster carer's bedroom up to 3 years of age.

A room share assessment form on LCS needs completing and approving to ensure any shared arrangements are appropriate.

For room sharing, the following factors need to be considered as a minimum:

- The size of the room
- The intended duration of the placement i.e. holiday/ short breaks or longer term
- The chronological ages and genders of the children
- The developmental stages of the children
- The known quality of the existing relationship between the children
- Background information provided about the children.

Background information to inform the assessment:

If the background information indicates that any of the children intended for a room share arrangement have experienced any of the following, then this would indicate likely non approval:

- sexual abuse
- harmful sexual behaviour
- any bedwetting and / or soiling
- have any significant behavioural issues
- where bullying has been identified as a concern

Personal Space and Privacy:

Single or 'box' rooms are only suitable for room share for short term stays - possibly only days or weeks (e.g. for holiday cover /short breaks)

Health & Safety & Comfort:

Bunk beds are more suitable for primary school age children but are not appropriate for the under 6's.

Process for room share assessment and approval:

- The Placement Coordinators / SSW should approach the Child's Social Worker for any relevant background information to inform their assessment.
- The Placements Coordinator / SSW and the Foster Carer need to discuss any behaviour management strategies and make any necessary amendments to the foster carer's Family Safe Care Policy in the event of an agreed room share arrangement.
- The Placements Coordinator / Supervising Social Worker must send the completed assessment to an appropriate Team Manager for approval e.g. Fostering Team Manager / Duty Fostering Manager.
- Copies of the completed assessment should be emailed to the foster carer and subsequently reviewed by the Fostering Supervising Social Worker with the foster carer prior to each foster carer annual review.