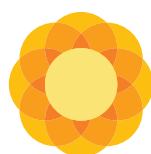


Family and Friends

Connected Persons Foster Care



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

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Section 1

What is Family and Friends (Connected Person) Foster Care?

This is when a child or young person who is in care is placed with a family member or a friend who knows the child very well.

A child may be accommodated voluntarily (s.20) with the agreement of the parents or may be subject to a Care Order.

If a child or young person cannot live with their birth parents Birmingham Children's Trust will always seek to make alternative arrangements for the child within their family or wider network.

Section 2

How do I become a Family and Friends (Connected Person) Foster Carer?

In order to decide if the child can be placed with you there needs to be an assessment to decide if this is the best place for the child to live.

The assessment will look at:

- Your existing relationship with the child and your reason for wishing to care for them.
- Your ability to meet all the child's needs.
- Your ability to work together with the professionals involved with the child, including social worker, teacher and health worker.
- Your understanding and acceptance of the reasons for the child being removed from their parents' care.
- Your willingness to engage with training and support offered to you.

Section 3

The assessment process

There are three steps to becoming a Family and Friends (Connected Person) Foster Carer.

The three steps are listed below.

1) Family Group Conference/meeting

A meeting will be arranged for all family members and close friends and this is the opportunity to decide who is the most suitable person to care for the child.

Usually only one person is put forward for assessment. However, there may be occasions when there is more than one family member/friend who wishes to be considered.

2) Viability assessment

Following the Family Group Conference, a viability assessment is completed to form an initial view of your suitability to care for the child.

If the outcome of the viability assessment is positive, this will lead to a more detailed assessment.

3) Full assessment (also called a 'Form C')

This is a 12-week assessment that will require a detailed discussion about your lifestyle, family history. It will include a medical and DBS (criminal record check) for all adults in your household.

Your home will be assessed to ensure it is suitable for a child and you will need to provide details of referees who can comment on your suitability to care.

Once completed the assessment is presented to a Fostering Panel who give their view about whether you should be approved as a Family and Friends (Connected Person) Foster Carer.

Section 4

Reasons why an assessment may not be positive

Although Birmingham Children's Trust believes it is better for a child to live with someone to whom they already have a connection there may be reasons that this is not possible.

These include:

- Carer's ill health or dependence on drugs or alcohol.
- Carer's criminal record prevents them from caring for a child.
- Carer's housing is overcrowded or poorly maintained.
- Carer is unable to meet the needs of the child fully or work together with the professionals involved.
- Carer does not have a significant relationship with the child.

Section 5

Following approval

All Family and Friends (Connected Person) foster carers are allocated to a Supervising Social Worker who will provide you with support, guidance and supervision.

You will receive ongoing training to support you in your role. Your approval as a carer will be reviewed annually.

When the child is in your care you will receive a weekly financial allowance to meet the cost of caring for the child.



Section 6

Contact us

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