

Unplanned placement ending review – Practice Guidance

3.7) Foster carers receive support on how to manage their responses and feelings arising from caring for children, particularly where children display very challenging behaviour, and understand how children's previous experiences can manifest in challenging behaviour.

11.2) Children are carefully matched to a foster placement. Foster carers have full information about the child (as set out in standard 3.9).

11.5) Where children are leaving the foster family, they are helped to understand the reasons why they are leaving. Children are supported during the transition to their new placement, to independent living or to their parental home.

(National Minimum Standards (2011))

(4) "Fostering agency" means, subject to subsection (6)—

(a) an undertaking which consists of or includes discharging functions of local authorities in connection with the placing of children with foster parents; or

(b) a voluntary organisation which places children with foster parents under section 59(1) of the 1989 Act

(Care Standards Act (2000))

17.—(1) The fostering service provider must provide foster parents with such training, advice, information and support, including support outside office hours, as appears necessary in the interests of children placed with them.

(3) The fostering service provider must ensure that, in relation to any child placed or to be placed with a foster parent, the foster parent is given such information, which is kept up to date, as to enable him to provide appropriate care for the child, and in particular that each foster parent is provided with a copy of the most recent version of the child's care plan provided to the fostering service provider under regulation 6(3)(d) of the Care Planning Regulations.

(Fostering Services Regulations (2011))



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Practice Guidance:

Home disruption meetings (Placement Stability Meetings) should be completed as a proactive response to signs of a fostering placement strain. These meetings aim to intervene early to prevent breakdown, involve stakeholders, and set action plans to include targeted support for the foster carers and the child, offered by the Fostering Service, more widely across Sandwell Children's Trust and through accessing appropriate universal services.

The fundamental principle in achieving placement stability and permanence is through proactive and informed matching, family-like support systems, and managing transitions sensitively. It is therefore important to reflect upon the circumstances where a child's fostering placement has broken down necessitating an unplanned placement move and to consider what learning can be taken both in supporting a positive transition for the child but for future matching with the foster carers and the support offered from the Fostering Service.

Whenever a child placed within Sandwell Children's Trust experiences a breakdown in their fostering placement necessitating a placement move, the unplanned placement ending review proforma MUST be completed within **TEN** working days of the move. This review should be undertaken by the responsible Team Manager after discussion with the child, the foster carer, the allocated SSW, the child's social worker and any other persons of significance, to include birth families if appropriate. This protocol applies to children placed with mainstream, both short term and long term matched, and connected person's foster carers approved with Sandwell Children's Trust's Fostering Service. This protocol does not apply to children placed under emergency considerations (it is accepted that matching in such circumstances may be driven by capacity and not as the identified most suitable placement for a child) or respite conditions (where a child already has a substantive fostering placement to return home to).

A reflective supervision held jointly with both the foster carer and the SSW to cascade learning and further development. The completed unplanned placement ending review proforma is to be uploaded to the child and the foster carer's LCS record.



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References:

National Minimum Standards (2011)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7abe16e5274a319e77a6a1/NMS_Fostering_Services.pdf

Care Standards Act (2000)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/contents>

Fostering Services (England) Regulations (2011)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/581/contents>

The Children Act (1989)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/959/contents>

Statutory guidance under the Children Act (Volumes 2 & 4), National Minimum Standards (2013) (2021)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60e6fb43d3bf7f56896127e5/The_Children_Act_1989_guidance_and_regulations_Volume_2_care_planning_placement_and_case_review.pdf