

## SSW visits to children in fostering placements – Practice Guidance

- 1.1) Children's views, wishes and feelings are acted upon, unless this is contrary to their interests or adversely affects other members of the foster care household.
- 1.2) Children understand how their views have been taken into account and where significant wishes or concerns are not acted upon, they are helped to understand why.
- 1.3) Children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support.
- 1.7) The wishes, feelings and views of children and those significant to them are taken into account in monitoring foster carers and developing the fostering service.
- 2.1) Children are provided with personalised care that meets their needs and promotes all aspects of their individual identity.
- 2.4) Children exercise choice in the food that they eat and are able to prepare their own meals and snacks, within the context of the foster family's decision making and the limits that a responsible parent would set.
- 2.5) Children exercise choice and independence in the clothes and personal requisites that they buy and have these needs met, within the context of the foster family's decision making and the reasonable limits that a responsible parent would set. (This sub-standard is not applicable to short break placements.)
- 2.6) Children develop skills and emotional resilience that will prepare them for independent living.

(National Minimum Standards (2011))

### Practice Guidance:

Within Sandwell Children's Trust's Fostering service, all children in fostering placement are required to be seen in person by their foster carer's allocated SSW every eight weeks as a maximum consideration. This includes children placed within the Fostering Service within mainstream and connected person's fostering placements as well as those whose foster carers have been granted temporary approval under REG 24 and REG 25 considerations.

SSW visits to children in placement should always be planned pieces of work to support children being able to build a relationship with the SSW and to be able to engage in the discussion meaningfully. Children should be seen on their own and away from their foster carers. Children should be supported to understand that the purpose of the SSW's visit is to



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ensure that they are happy with all elements of their fostering placement: this differs from the allocated children's social workers' statutory visit which will consider all elements of a child's experience of being looked after.

Where children are very young, such as babies and toddlers, or may have additional needs, it is appropriate for the SSW to observe the feedback of the child's experience of being in foster care through direct observation of their interaction with their foster carers.

All SSW visits to children in fostering placement must be recorded to the child's LCS file, using the following 'drop down' for the case note (written to the child and in blue ink) and then duplicated to the foster carer's LCS record:

**Fostering Service – (SSW) visit to child in placement**

Where children are seen in their fostering placement but not as a planned visit to meet with them expressly, this should be recorded on the child's LCS record using the following 'drop down' for the case note and then duplicated to the foster carer's LCS record:

**Fostering Service – Foster carer supervision update, including the child's voice**



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### References:

National Minimum Standards (2011)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fostering-services-national-minimum-standards>

The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations (2010)

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