

Children first and at the heart of all we do

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PRACTICE STANDARD:

VISITING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Practitioners will see and speak to children often enough to understand their lived experience and ensure we are providing purposeful help to their families.

All children allocated a children's service practitioner to support their care at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children should be seen alone. Where there are reasons, this is not possible or appropriate the decision will be made with a manager and recorded on the child's file. Direct work with children will be purposeful and meaningful using appropriate tools and activities to engage and work with the child. Children should be provided with an informal or formal advocate if required to support them to express their wishes and feelings. 	Practitioners and Team Managers
Children Receiving Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The frequency of contact is set out in the child's plan, sufficient to enable assessment and intervention to be effective and to allow for a credible review of the child's progress. 	Early Help Practitioner
Children in Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be visited at least every 6 weeks as agreed with the Team Manager and detailed in the child's plan 	Social Worker
Child Protection Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a Section 47 enquiry is being undertaken the child will be visited no later than 2 working days after the strategy meeting with additional visits according to their needs and the level of risk. 	Social Worker
Children Subject of Child Protection Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be seen within a maximum of 48 hours following the Initial Child Protection Conference. Thereafter, as agreed at Child Protection Conference & Core Group, at least once every 10 working days. 	Social Worker
Children who are in our care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the day the child is placed, then within 1 week of the beginning of the placement Intervals no longer than six weeks during the first year of any placement 	Social Worker

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every six weeks during subsequent years unless formally agreed as a permanent placement and once agreed, at intervals of not more than three months • Whenever reasonably asked for by a child or foster carer, regardless of placement status. • Where the child has a series of short breaks, they are seen as a minimum twice a year in that setting (at least once unannounced) 	
Children and young people who are placed in a series of short breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the first seven placement days then within 3 months of the first placement day. • Intervals of no less than six months after the first visit Unannounced at least once a year if placements interval is more than six months • At least annually the child's sleeping arrangements will be seen 	Social Worker
Children placed in an adoptive placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the first week of the placement and weekly thereafter until the first review • Thereafter, the frequency of visits is determined at the child's Adoption Review or, if not specified, every six weeks for the first year and after this, three-monthly. • Additional visits are arranged where there are any concerns. • Link worker visits as per Placement Plan, until Adoption Order made, or placement ended 	Social Worker
Privately Fostered Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 9 days (7 working days) from the date of notification to the local authority • Intervals of not more than six weeks during the first twelve months • Intervals of not more than 12 weeks in any 2nd or subsequent year 	Social Worker
Children with temporarily approved foster carers or parents under Interim Care Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly until the first review • Every four weeks thereafter until the carer is approved or final hearing completed. 	Social Worker
Children made subject to a Care and placed at home with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Worker will visit children placed at home with their parents within one week of the placement and thereafter every six weeks. • If a child is placed with parents pending assessment, social work visits must take place at least once a week until the first Looked After Review, thereafter at intervals of not more than six weeks. 	Social Worker

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Children reported missing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'children missing/missing from care' procedures are followed – Visited within 72 hours of the child's return, referring to the above procedures 	Social Worker
Children in more than one placement, residential school, and foster care or residential home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visited in each living situation, at least every 12 weeks 	Social Worker
Young People aged 18-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least every 2 months by their personal advisor. In addition keeping in touch by phone, text or email based on the YP's preference frequency and type of contact agreed with the YP and set out in their Pathway Plan 	Young Person Advisor