



Derby City Council



Stronger Families
and
Resilient Children

Guidance Sheet on Unregulated Placements with Connected Person/Kinship Carers.

Version 2.0 (June 2020).

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 There will be circumstances where a young person who is a Looked After Child is placed in an unregulated placement with what is known as a Family and Friends or Connected Persons/Kinship carer. This could be for children who are looked after by way of either Section 20 or 31 of the Children Act 1989 and may have been in the context of a placement/s breakdown/s and there being no other appropriate or suitably matched placement being available for that young person. In other cases, it may be a positive choice when a child becomes looked after to enable the child or young person to remain within their family network following a crisis or due to safeguarding concerns.
- 1.2 In these circumstances, a young person may be placed with a Connected Persons/Kinship carer as per the processes set out in the [Placements with Connected Persons Procedure](#), which covers emergency situations where a Connected Person/Kinship carer can be temporarily approved as a foster carer. However, whilst this policy and process may work for many young people and their carer/s, it does not cover every potential scenario and there may be placements that need to be approved by a Head of Service (HOS), where the carer either does not wish to engage in, is unlikely to be successful in or indeed is not successful in applying to become a Family and Friends Foster Carer under Regulation 24. However, it is only in very exceptional circumstances that Regulation 24 should not apply.
- 1.3 If this is the case, then the placement becomes unregulated and all possible alternatives to this should be sought and considered by the Social Worker in

conjunction with their Team Manager. However, in a small number of cases, this placement might be the most appropriate for that young person and may help them to achieve the outcomes recommended in their Care Plan.

- 1.4 This guidance sheet provides a quick reference guide to outline the process and tools to be used in unregulated placements with Connected Persons/Kinship carers.
- 1.5 There is a separate unregulated guidance document for unregulated supported accommodation and crisis placements (used for homeless 16- and 17-year olds) that has been written by the Integrated Commissioning Service and which should be consulted for unregulated placements in that specific context.

2. Process.

- 2.1 The process for Connected Persons/Kinship placements is outlined in the [Placements with Connected Persons Procedure](#) and attached at Appendix 1, is a simplified flow chart of the Connected Persons pathway. This will help front line staff ensure they are following the correct process regarding Connected Persons/Kinship placements.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the Connected Persons pathway on LCS must be used in all cases of this nature to ensure consistent recording of all cases that require a Connected Persons/Kinship placement. This will ensure data can easily be collected on numbers of such cases, including the number of carers who do not go on to become Family and Friends Foster carers.
- 2.3 In situations where the placement becomes unregulated due to issues highlighted in section 1.2, the Deputy Head Of Service (DHOS) for that service area will arrange to meet or discuss with the allocated Social Worker, Team Manager and a member of the DCC Legal Team using the Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements (attached at Appendix 2), to guide a discussion on that placement, inform a decision on approval of that placement, agree what actions need to take place (within clear timescales) and provide a decision on approval.
- 2.4 The Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements will then be typed up by the DHOS, agreed as an accurate record (within 72 hours) by the allocated Social Worker, Team Manager, member of DCC legal team and DHOS. The DHOS must make a case note entry that the meeting has taken place and outcomes of this (on LCS).
- 2.5 The Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements will then be sent for approval to the HOS who will need to ensure clarity when recording on LCS as to whether this is to be the permanence plan for that child or

whether the approval is an interim one, pending work to locate and secure an alternative regulated placement.

- 2.5 The completed and signed Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements must then be sent to the Service Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care for final approval and sign off by the HOS.
- 2.6 Once the Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements has been signed off by the Service Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care, this must be communicated back to the relevant HOS, who in turn must make the relevant DHOS, Team Manager and Social Worker aware. The Social Worker will then ensure the completed Case Discussion Framework for Unregulated Placements template is added to Live Link and undertake statutory visits in line with the visiting frequency outlined in Tri X Section 5.5.
- 2.7 Where the Service Director dissents from the approval made by the HOS, there will be case discussion between the Service Director and HOS to agree actions necessary. These will be fed back by the HOS to the DHOS, Team Manager and Social Worker.

3. Tracking Unregulated Placements.

- 3.1 Permanency Tracking meetings that occur monthly and are attended by the HOS' for Specialist and Safeguarding Services and DHOS for Children In Care/Care Leavers and will track all unregulated cases that have been identified through monthly policy and Insight performance reports to ensure all unregulated Connected Persons/Kinship placements have appropriate HOS approval and footprint on the young person's file. This will ensure that no cases are left unregulated without appropriate senior manager oversight and approval.