

Appendix 1: Caring for Somebody Else’s Child – Options

	Private Fostering	Family Care (Informal)	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Residence Order	Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Adoption
Route into the caring arrangement	<p>This is a <b>private arrangement</b> whereby the child is being cared for for 28 days or more (or the intention is that the arrangement will last for 28 days or more) by anyone who does not have parental responsibility and who is not a close relative.</p> <p>Relative means grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (by full blood, half blood or by marriage or affinity) or a step parent.</p> <p>The child is not a looked after child.</p>	<p>The relative has chosen to take on the care of the child but does not have parental responsibility, and <b>the arrangement was not made by the Department.</b></p> <p>The child is not a looked after child.</p> <p>Relative may perceive the parents to be unable to care for the child;</p> <p>or the parents may be dead or otherwise unavailable (e.g. in prison);</p> <p>or there may be an agreement between relatives due to difficult family circumstances</p>	<p>The child has been <b>placed with the relative or friend by the Department</b> because the person who had been caring for the child was deemed not be providing suitable care.</p> <p>The child is a looked after child and so the Department must approve the relative or friend as a foster care via the Fostering Service (see procedure).</p> <p>The child may be accommodated voluntarily with the agreement of the parents or may be subject to a Care Order.</p>	<p>The child is a looked after child being accommodated by the Department under Section 25 CYPA 2001 or because the child is subject to a Care Order; but has been placed with a foster carer by the Department.</p> <p>(Alternatively, the Department may choose to place a child into residential care where this is considered to best meet the child’s needs).</p>	<p>The child may be a risk of becoming ‘looked after’ and a friend or relative applies for an order, <b>or</b></p> <p>The child may have been ‘looked after’ and their foster carer or other relative/friend applies for an order.</p> <p>Any person may apply for an order after the child has lived with them for 3 years (1 year if official foster parent or relative for SGO) or who has the consent of each person with parental responsibility or who has leave of the Court to make an application. Where the child is ‘in care’ (i.e. there is a Care Order), applicants have to have the consent of the Department (Residence Order).</p> <p>Or, there can be benign reasons e.g. after parents’ death in line with a prior agreement between the birth parents and the carer.</p>	<p>The child may be a risk of becoming ‘looked after’ and a friend or relative applies for an order, <b>or</b></p> <p>The child may have been ‘looked after’ and their foster carer or other relative/friend applies for an order.</p> <p>Any person may apply for an order after the child has lived with them for 3 years (1 year if official foster parent or relative for SGO) or who has the consent of each person with parental responsibility or who has leave of the Court to make an application. Where the child is ‘in care’ (i.e. there is a Care Order), applicants have to have the consent of the Department (Residence Order).</p> <p>Or, there can be benign reasons e.g. after parents’ death in line with a prior agreement between the birth parents and the carer.</p>	<p>Looked after children: the Department may decide that the child should be placed for adoption. They can only do so with the consent of the birth parent or with agreement of the Court.</p>
Parental Responsibility (PR)	Remains with birth parents	Remains with birth parents but the person who cares for the child may do what is reasonable to promote the child’s welfare.	Remains with birth parents if child accommodated under section 25 CYPA, or if the child is subject to a Care Order or Emergency Protection Order the Department will have parental responsibility and can determine the extent to which it may be exercised by others who have parental responsibility.		Shared by parents and holder of residence order.	Shared with parents and anyone else with PR for the child. The Special Guardian may exercise PR to the exclusion of all others with PR, apart from another Special Guardian.	PR transfers to adopters and relationship with birth parents is severed.
Approval Basis	The Department has a duty to ensure that such arrangements are not prejudicial to the welfare of the child, this is determined via an assessment and may be prohibited if it is determined to be unsuitable.	None	Approved as Family & Friends Foster Carers in accordance with the relevant procedure.		Appointed by Court following application.	Appointed by Court following application. Department must investigate and prepare a report for the Court dealing with the suitability of the applicant to be a Special Guardian. This is done via Family Placement Service but will involve SW if known family or child is looked after. See SGO Procedure.	Family Placement Service (Adoption) assesses and approves prospective adopters, Court makes Order regarding specific child.

<b>Duration</b>	Subject to discretion of person with PR and readiness of private foster carer	Subject to discretion of person with PR	So long as placement remains in line with child's Care Plan, as determined by the Department	Age 16 (unless made after the subject is 16 then remains until age 18)	Age 18 unless varied or discharged by the Court before the child reaches 18 year.	Permanent lifelong relationship
<b>Placement Supervision</b>	It is not a placement but the Department has a policy to make regular visits (minimum 6 weekly in first year, then 12 weekly thereafter) to satisfy itself that the welfare of children are satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted	None.	Statutory visits to child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker from Family Placement Service (Fostering)	None	None	When child is placed for adoption by the Department the placement is supervised and there are statutory reviews. Once the adoption order is made, none.
<b>Review of Placement</b>	It is not a placement but the Department may do formal reviews in addition to ongoing welfare checks if required.	None.	Statutory reviews of child's Care Plane (minimum 6 monthly) and annual reviews of Foster Carer approval by the Family Placement Service (Fostering)	None	None	See above.
<b>Support Services</b>	Provision of advice and support as determined necessary by the Department. The Department/Early Help Service may assess the child as a child in need with a Complex Needs or Additional Needs Plan and provide services/support for child/family under section 23 CYPA.	No entitlement but the Department/Early Help Service may assess the child as a child in needs with a Complex or Additional Needs Plan and provide services/support for child/family under section 23 CYPA.	Support to meet child's needs including PEP.  Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with Fostering Service Minimum Standards.  Young person may be entitled to leaving care support service (see Leaving Care Policy)	No entitlement but the Department/Early Help Service may assess the child as a child in needs with a Complex or Additional Needs Plan and provide services/support for child/family under section 23 CYPA.	If child was looked after prior to making the SGO, the Department must assess for need for Special Guardianship Support Services. Department has discretion whether to provide support.  See also 'Residence Order', child may be 'child in need'.	Adoption support needs will be assessed at matching which may be provided by Department directly or via contracted services e.g. Family Placement Service (Adoption) or Wraparound Service.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial Support – entitlement</b></p>	<p>Financial responsibility to maintain the child remains with holders of PR.</p> <p>Can claim child benefit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>May affect entitlement to other Benefits depending on carers circumstances e.g. Income Support.</p>	<p>Financial responsibility to maintain the child remains with holders of PR.</p> <p>Can claim child benefit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>Guardian’s Allowance payable under certain circumstances (e.g. both parents dead, or surviving parent cannot be found or in prison serving sentence of 5 years or more).</p> <p>May affect entitlement to other Benefits depending on carers circumstances e.g. Income Support.</p>	<p>Child benefit not payable.</p> <p>Weekly allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child. Rate set by the Department.</p> <p>Initial 6 weeks paid directly by Department, once temporary approval by Family Placement Service (Fostering) received, Fostering take over making payments.</p>	<p>Child benefit not payable.</p> <p>Weekly allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child. Rate set by the Department paid by Family Placement Service (Fostering).</p> <p>Level 1 and 2 Skills fee for carers determined and payable by Family Placement Service (Fostering). Level 3 Skills fee determined in conjunction with the Department and payable by Fostering.</p>	<p>Can claim child benefit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>Guardian’s Allowance payable under certain circumstances (e.g. both parents dead or surviving parent cannot be found or is in prison serving sentence of 5 years or more).</p> <p>May affect entitlement to other Benefits depending on carers circumstances e.g. Income Support.</p>	<p>Can claim child benefit post Order and Adoption/Paternity Allowance during initial period post placement.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial Support - Discretionary</b></p>	<p>The Department has discretion to make one-off payments (usually in the form of purchase of necessary items or a one-off payment) under Section 20 CYPA.</p>	<p>The Department has discretion to make one-off payments (usually in the form of purchase of necessary items or a one-off payment) under Section 20 CYPA</p>	<p>The Department has discretion to pay (via Fostering Service or direct to carers) additional sums to cover specific activities for looked after children or to cover exceptional expenses that arise e.g. medical trips to UK, costs associated with hobbies and interests that are not reasonably covered by the Fostering Allowance.</p>	<p>The Department has discretion to pay (via Fostering Service) additional sums to cover specific activities for looked after children or to cover exceptional expenses that arise e.g. medical trips to UK, costs associated with hobbies and interests that are not reasonably covered by the Fostering Allowance.</p>	<p>The Department has discretion to pay Residence Order allowance if the child was previously looked after or if making the Residence Order prevents child becoming looked after. Any allowance is subject to Financial Assessment and annual review.</p>	<p>Entitled to an assessment for financial support under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2014 if the child was looked after prior to the Order. Particular provisions exist for previous foster carers.</p> <p>Subject to Financial Assessment and annual review.</p> <p>Payments can be one-off or regular weekly.</p>	<p>If child looked after prior to Adoption Order, assessment for an Adoption Allowance paid by Department can take place subject to Financial Assessment and annual review.</p> <p>The main criterion for approval of an Adoption Allowance is that the child has identified additional needs.</p>