

WALSALL FAMILY PLACEMENT SERVICES

Supervision Agreement (Foster Carers)

It is the policy of Walsall Council Children's Services in accordance with the National Standards that foster carers should receive regular and effective supervision.

Supervision is seen as the opportunity for carers and their supervising link worker to discuss wider issues than just those related to the current placement. Supervision is an opportunity for individuals to be given support in their tasks as foster carers and help in terms of their own professional development. It is the place where carers are given clear expectations from the service and have a formal way of expressing their concerns, needs and comments. Supervision also informs and aids the completion of the foster carer's review and skills progression and provides a record of issues to be included in reports and feedback about children and young people in placement.

The service expects newly approved foster carers to be supervised at intervals of four weeks. As carers develop in confidence and experience supervision can take place on a six weekly basis. In some agreed circumstances this can be reduced to bi-monthly with at least one support call in the alternate month. This is in addition to other placement support visits and unannounced visits.

Ground Rules:

- Regular agreed contact appropriate to placement(s)
- Honesty and openness
- Punctuality and reliability
- Mutual respect
- To work within the Foster Carer Agreement and the joint working protocol

Supervising Link Worker's responsibilities:

- To advise, support and supervise Foster Carer(s)
- To provide accurate information e.g. in relation to policies and procedures, training opportunities etc.
- To continually assess that the fostering household meets quality standards set by the service for foster carers and the provision of care to children and young people.
- To assess carers continued development and competence using the competence framework.
- To assist in monitoring financial procedures around that payment to the carer(s) and the management of the fostering placement's allowances.

- To assist in organising respite where appropriate
- To keep records of contact between Foster Carer(s) and supervising Social Worker.
- To monitor and assess Foster Carer's practice in order to facilitate the Foster Carer's Review.
- To challenge oppressive practice and to work in an anti-discriminatory way.
- To work within Agencies Supervising Link Worker's role and responsibilities.
- Supervising link worker (if applicable) ensures adequate time is allocated to meeting with the children that live within the carer(s) household. The requirement is that all children in the household are seen on alternate visits
- Partners of the main foster carer should be seen every three months

Foster Carer's Responsibilities:

- To work within expectations of the working protocol.
- To keep supervising link worker informed about any changes in her or his circumstance that may impact on fostering placements.
- To provide the supervising link worker a safer caring policy for their family, to review its contents and keep this policy up to date.
- To attend meetings concerning prospective and present children in placement.
- To monitor own learning and development and identify any future learning needs.
- To maintain accurate and up to date records using the service policy on recording for foster carers.
- To attend training
- To develop and sustain a good and appropriate relationship with the Supervising Link worker. This involves receiving constructive feedback around practice.
- To keep a record of expenditure appropriate to the placement.
- To provide reasonable notice around holiday requests and the use of respite.

Content and focus of supervision:

- Agreeing the agenda
- Reviewing your work as carers through discussion, records and observation.
- Developing your skills and knowledge by reflecting on your work with children in placement.
- Identifying your developmental needs.
- Providing the space to reflect more generally on your experiences as a carer and working with the service.
- Providing the opportunity for you to raise any issues of concern.

If there are difficulties in working together effectively, these will be resolved through discussion and negotiation, with opportunity for both parties to discuss the issues with the appropriate Team Manager.

Signed	Supervising Link Worker	Date
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Signed	Foster Carer	Date
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Signed	Foster Carer	Date
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