

Summary of Procedure

Notification or other information indicating that a child is or may be privately fostered.

Initial Action

- Complete Referral and Initial Information Record
- Send standard letters to the Foster Carer and Parents
- Arrange a visit within 7 days if the child is already placed

Assessment visit

- Cover areas in the PF Assessment format – double checking information where necessary
- Carers must sign and return the Declaration of Suitability and Police Check forms
- See the child – or arrange to do so as soon as possible. See entire house.
- If there are other child in need issues follow the appropriate procedure and eligibility guidelines.

Follow-up

- Chase outstanding information/consents etc
- Follow up additional checks or other action as necessary
- Ensure the child has a GP, is known to PCT and is offered a health check as appropriate
- Meeting or telephone discussion with parents

Decision Making

- Discuss the Assessment report and outcome of checks in supervision referring to procedures and regulations as necessary.

Is the arrangement satisfactory in terms of safeguarding and promoting the child's welfare?

YES

Line Manager decides with the Social Worker whether there is a need for further child in need services, referral for advice, advocacy, cultural links etc.

Line Manager then transfers the case to the Looked After Children's (LAC) Team after the assessment has been completed.

Where the arrangement has been made within the Safeguarding team, the case will remain within that team.

NO

Consider whether the situation can be rectified by:

- Provision of services to the child, carer(s) and family or the child's parents
- More intensive contact than specified in the regulations
- Negotiations involving carer(s), child, parents
- A Core Assessment to clarify
- the child's overall needs

If concerns continue consider – proportionate to the seriousness of the situation and the child's general needs, age and vulnerability and own views:

- Suggesting that the parents end the arrangements
- Imposing requirements under Schedule 8 of the regulations- e.g. with respect to the age range of children who may be cared for.
- Holding a Child in Need meeting to consider future options
- Taking action under child protection procedures