

Children and Young People's
Support and Safeguarding
Services

You Can, I Can, We Can

**Family and
Friends/Connected
Persons
Policy and Procedure**



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I. Aim and Scope

Children are entitled to grow up as part of a loving family that can meet their developmental needs. Where possible this should be with their birth family, or if this is not an option, with a relative or member of the child's social network. Where this is not consistent with the child's welfare, every effort will be made to secure an alternative stable home where the child will feel loved and valued.

This guidance sets out how local Authorities and their partners should work to deliver effective support and services for children and young people where the Local Authority has been tasked to make a formal arrangement for a child to live with family members or a person within their network.

'Relative, friend or connected person' is defined as: a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership), step-parent or friend of, or other person connected with, a Cared for child. A person in the last category may be someone who knows the child in a more professional capacity such as a child minder, a teacher, or a youth worker although these are not exclusive categories.

A Family and Friends/Connected Person foster arrangements can therefore be defined as being an arrangement where:

- A child cannot live with their parents and is living away from the parental home with a relative, friend or connected person;
and
- The arrangement has in some way been assisted or initiated and/or is supported by Children, Schools and Families, often with a view to securing the care arrangement via a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order;
and
- The child would otherwise be with foster carers, in residential care or independent living

This policy will be reviewed annually, and specific views will be sought from individuals who access our service and partner agencies. This will inform the effectiveness of the policy and contribute to future reviews of the Policy.

2. Decision to accommodate

Before any child can become 'cared for', a Child and Family Assessment must be completed. Agreement must be sought from the Care Planning Panel (or if in an emergency by a director, (and then retrospectively at the Care Planning Panel). Unless the child is subject to a court order or Police Protection, parents must sign a Section 20 agreement.

A Placement Agreement meeting must be held before any arrangement is made, or within 5 days of an unplanned arrangement. A Child in Need Planning Meeting, Family Group Conference (see Family Group Conferences flowchart, available on page 20) and/or Legal Planning Meeting, must also be considered before any care arrangement is made, or within 10 working days of an unplanned arrangement.



Family Group Conferences can be particularly effective when used at an early stage to avoid or reduce the need for ongoing support and intervention by children's social care services. A Family Group Conference should therefore be considered as a valuable tool to engage families in planning as soon as it is thought possible that a child may need to become looked after.

When a decision has been made that a child needs to become cared for, whether by means of a Court order or accommodation, consideration must be given as to whether an appropriate family and friends /connected person placement is available. A Family Group Conference may be helpful in identifying a potential family and friends/connected person foster carer.

Practitioners seeking further details on related policies and procedures can refer to our internal procedure library.

All relevant and associated policies and procedures can be made available in digital and paper format and will be provided by the allocated social worker, upon the request of children, young people, parents, and carers.

3. Who is responsible for this Policy.

All Practitioners should ensure that they are working within the framework and guidelines outlined within this policy, However the Strategic Lead for Corporate Parenting is the senior manager with overall responsibility for this policy.

This senior manager in collaboration with relevant Team Managers will ensure that council staff understand the policy, have access to appropriate support and training and operate within the policy framework, so that it is applied in a consistent and fair manner across the county. The senior manager will ensure that local partners are communicated with to ensure that they are aware of the Policy and their responsibilities towards children living in these arrangements to ensure they are proactive in meeting their needs.

The senior manager in partnership with relevant parties, will also ensure that the policy is publicised so that anyone considering becoming a family and friends' carer, can familiarise themselves of its contents and know how to contact the council and other agencies for further information and support when needed.

4. The Legal Framework

The Children Act 1989 (as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) requires a local authority to seek first to place a Cared for child with a relative, friend or Connected Person. This requirement is strengthened by the Public Law Outline (See Public Law Outline), which requires authorities to demonstrate that they have considered family members and friends as potential carers at each stage of the decision-making process. It is therefore important that any discussions held with family, friends and connected persons are recorded effectively, as details will be required by the Court.

Cared for children may only reside with a relative, friend or connected person if they have been approved as foster carers under the [Fostering Services \(England\) Regulations 2011](#) or



have been temporarily approved as foster carers under Regulation 24 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (Amended 2015). These Regulations, together with the [Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011](#) (FNMS 2011), set out the requirements in relation to the assessment, approval, support and supervision of all foster carers, including those who are family members, friends or other connected persons.

Regulation 24 replaces Regulation 38 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2002 and has extended the temporary approval period for family and friends /connected person placements from 6 to 16 weeks. This time period has been set to allow sufficient time for the full foster care approval process to be undertaken and S30 of the Fostering National Minimum Standard (FNMS 2011) requires that the assessment must be completed in this period.

A Viability Assessment must be carried out, to ensure that the quality of care for the child is good enough. It must be signed off by the Fostering Team Manager before the child can be placed with the carer.

5. Emergency and planned caring arrangements

It is preferable that decisions regarding who the child resides with should be planned as early as possible. Provisions relating to temporary approval (Regulation 24) are intended to be used exceptionally and in circumstances which could not easily have been foreseen, when it is not possible to undertake a full foster carer assessment prior to the child entering the care arrangement. The power will be most useful where it is clearly in the child's interest to be live with or remain in the care of a familiar figure in reassuring surroundings. Before making such a decision the authority should satisfy itself as to the reasons for the carers coming forward to offer care for the child, and that there is no obvious barrier to undertaking a foster carer assessment.

Where possible there should be a programme of introductions and contact arrangements set up before the placement is made (taking into account the views of those involved)
[Section 30, Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011](#)

The assessment requirements before the child may take residence with a family and friends /connected person foster carer under temporary approval are the minimum requirements for assessing the relative, friend or connected person's suitability within what may be a short time frame. Every effort must be made to maximise the level and quality of information available to support the decision as to whether the person should be temporarily approved.

Approval to allow for a child to take immediate residence can be given only where the Services Manager (on behalf of the authority) is satisfied that: *In all the circumstances and taking into account the services to be provided by the responsible authority, the proposed arrangements will safeguard and promote the child's welfare and meet the child's needs set out in the care plan and that the most appropriate placement for the child is with a connected person, notwithstanding that the connected person is not approved as a local authority foster parent, and it is necessary for the child to be placed with the connected person before the connected person's suitability to be a local authority foster parent has been assessed in accordance with the 2010 (Amended 2015) Regulations*



6. The assessment of Family and Friends/Connected Persons foster carer

6.1. The Viability Assessment

A viability assessment considers the likelihood of carers being able to meet the physical and emotional needs of the children now and throughout their childhoods; whether they will be provided with stability and boundaries and whether they will be safe. Police and medical checks are initiated. Discussions with the prospective carer(s) cover the following:

- His/her level of motivation for providing a permanent home for the children;
- Current family relationships and functioning;
- The carers' experience of parenting their own children;
- The difficulties that may have led to the family breakdown and his/her insight into this;
- Where children are already placed the assessment covers how well the carer is coping at the present time.

The outcome of the viability assessment is shared with the carer, the child's social worker, the children's guardian (if the child is the subject of care proceedings) and the fostering manager if the assessment is undertaken by a casual worker.

If it is positive, a comprehensive assessment will follow (see below). This will usually take up to 16 weeks in total and conclude in the presentation of completed assessment report to the East Riding Fostering Panel.

If the child is in care proceedings and the Care Plan is contingent upon the outcome of the assessment the assessor may be asked to write the viability assessment up in the form of a statement for courts in a shorter timescale.

Where the viability assessment uncovers serious potential difficulties the prospective carer/s might accept the concerns and withdraw, or they might challenge the assessment through the Court proceedings and ask for a further period of assessment of their ability to use support to overcome the anticipated difficulties. The viability assessment would then need to be presented to the Court and further course of action decided.

The format for the report has drawn on the assessment framework structure as well as on [Coram BAAF Form F2](#) forms.

The information obtained from existing files, from discussions with other professionals involved and from interviews with the prospective carers, should be undertaken.

Lists of risk and protective factors will help identify the potential strengths and weaknesses of the proposed arrangement. Two to Three interviews are not sufficient for a thorough exploration of issues, but the presence of a number of potential serious risk factors should be noted and will inform a full assessment if one is to be made following a positive viability. In any event the viability assessment should highlight the areas to be explored in depth in any continuing or future assessment.

Alongside the above, the BAC's (electronic transfer) details of the carers should be obtained, and arrangements made so that the Local Authority can begin to make payments to the carer.



The Fostering Team should ensure that the first Children Looked After review is booked and participants notified.

6.2. Family and Friends Full Assessment

Schedule Four of the [Care planning, Placement and Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#), (Amended 2015) sets out the areas which must be addressed in the assessment of prospective Connected Person Carers as follows:

In respect of the connected person:

- The nature and quality of any existing relationship with the child;
- Their capacity to care for children and in particular in relation to the child to:
- Provide for the child's physical needs and appropriate medical and dental care;
- Protect the child adequately from harm or danger including from any person who presents a risk of harm to the child;
- Ensure that the accommodation and home environment is suitable with regard to the age and developmental stage of the child;
- Promote the child's learning and development; and
- Provide a stable family environment which will promote secure attachments for the child including promoting positive contact with the parents and other connected persons, unless to do this is not consistent with the duty to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- Their health including their physical, emotional, and mental health and medical history including any current or past issues of domestic violence, substance misuse or mental health difficulties;
- Their family relationships and the composition of their household, including particulars of:
- The identity of all other members of the household, including their age and the nature of their relationship with the connected person and with each other, including any sexual relationship;
- Any relationship with any person who is a parent of the child;
- Any relationship between the child and other members of the household;
- Other adults not being members of the household who are likely to have regular contact with the child; and
- Any current or previous domestic violence between members of the household, including the connected person.

Their family history, including:

- Particulars of their childhood and upbringing including the strengths and difficulties of their parents or other persons who cared for them;
- Their relationships with their parents and siblings, and their relationships with each other;
- Their educational achievement and any specific learning difficulty or disability;
- A chronology of significant life events; and
- Particulars of other relatives and their relationships with the child and the connected person.
- Particulars of any criminal offences of which they have been convicted or in respect of which they have been cautioned;



- Their past and present employment and other sources of income; and
- The nature of the neighbourhood in which their home is situated and resources available in the community to support the child and the connected person.
- The home must be visited by the social worker as part of the assessment of suitability arrangements.
- [Section 30 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011](#) specifically requires that the Child's wishes are taken into account by the Agency Decision and requires that the Decision Maker must be provided with this information.
- The views of those with Parental Responsibility must also be obtained.
- Section 30 also sets out that the following regarding the carer assessment:
- That carers should be provided with information and support about the assessment and the potential care arrangement.
- The proposed carer should be given information about the assessment process which will start on day 1, anticipating that the arrangement may last longer than 16 weeks and ensuring information is collated to meet the legal requirements. This process includes the need for Disclosure and Barring Service checks and other agency enquiries on all members of the household aged 18 and over, as well as interviews with referees, adult children, and ex-partners, which will be part of any such fostering assessment.
- That carers should be asked about whether they know and understand about the child's background and behaviour and to be provided with information about this.
- The assessment should recognise the likely length of the care arrangement and the family's ability to continue to meet the child's needs (where appropriate) on a long-term basis.
- The prospective carers need to be made aware that any approval is temporary and does not imply continued approval beyond the 16 (sixteen) weeks.

7. Extension of a Temporary Approval

Family and Friends Foster Carers may be initially approved, under Regulation 24, by a Fostering Team Manager, Safeguarding Team for a period of up to 16 weeks. A full [Regulation 27 assessment](#) (CS0221F14) should then be taken to the Fostering Panel, before they can be approved as foster carers.

If the full assessment is not completed the temporary approval may be extended for a further 8 weeks. The matter was previously presented to the Fostering panel for its view, but now is considered by the Agency Decision Maker, only, for the decision. A brief report set out on Complete Request for Extension of Temporary Family & Friends Approval outlining the background to the child circumstances and the reasons for the extension should be presented. If agreed the matter moves from being a Regulation 24 placement to a Regulation 25 placement.

8. Involvement of Child and Carers in Care Planning

[Section 31 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011](#) sets out the expectation that the views of the child and the foster carer will be canvassed as part of the arrangement planning process and that the carer has a copy of the care plan. The child is to be assisted to understand the Care Plan, to contribute to their reviews and help ensure that they get access to advocacy services where appropriate.



The fostering service should contact the child's social worker to request a review or visit if these are overdue or if there has been a significant change which warrants an early review.

9. Related matters

If a potential carer decides to withdraw their application, they should be asked to complete a Withdrawal Letter.

An information pack will be available to potential family and friends' persons foster carers about the assessment and approval process.

A letter should be sent to temporary approved family and friends foster carers informing them when the temporary approval starts and finishes and what fostering allowances they will receive.

Once temporarily approved as family and friends foster carers, they will be allocated a fostering social worker from the Fostering Service to provide them with support and supervision.

A weekly fostering allowance is payable in line with the fostering allowances for East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the amount is dependent on the age of the child or young person. There is also a supplement for teenagers over 13 years of age.

A setting up grant is also available where connected persons are given financial support with providing bedroom furniture, bed linen and safety equipment for the children they are providing care for.

10. Approved Family and friends foster carers

Whilst the child or young person will retain their cared for status, the connected persons foster carer will be expected to cooperate with all the processes that ensure a child receives appropriate care and support e.g., attend Child Looked After review and promote the child's education and health needs and relevant support will be provided to carers to promote their collaboration and cooperation where needed or requested.

Connected persons foster carers will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to meet the care needs of children residing with and receiving care from them, and to achieve at least the minimum level of knowledge and skills outlined in the Children's Workforce Development Council's (CWDC's) Training, Support and Development (TSD) Standards.

The Training, Support and Development Standards provide an opportunity to identify any gaps in skills and knowledge as well as support needs. Family and friends foster carers achieving the Standards need to show that they understand their role, responsibilities, and obligations. They need to show awareness of other professionals and services involved in the child's life and how they are meeting the health and wellbeing needs of the child they look after. This will be achieved through completing the level 1 Workbook.



Once approved connected persons foster carers will have access to training provided by the Fostering Service and must meet the minimum requirements.

11. Support to family and friends' carers

The need for support services from the Local Authority may be assessed as part of the assessment process. Other community-based services, including; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), can be accessed via universal services and other professionals such as a health visitor, GP or the child or young person's school. Health and Social Care needs assessments can be requested by the carer directly to East Riding of Yorkshire Council or through the child or young person's school.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has a number of Children's Centres that can be used by family and friends' carers and provide access to a variety of services to support children under 5. Details can be found on East Riding of Yorkshire Council's website, ([Children's centres](#)). In addition, Annex C contains a list of organisations that may be of assistance to any family and friends' carers.

11.1. Accommodation

Sometimes family and friends 'carers will find that as their household grows, their accommodation may no longer meet the needs of the carer(s) and child or children for whom they are caring for.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council will work with local councils to ensure that, wherever possible, family and friends carers living in social housing are given appropriate priority to move to more suitable accommodation, if this will prevent the need for the local authority to provide care for the child or young person and avoid causing additional disruption to the child or young person's life.

11.2. Supporting family time

The local authority has a duty to promote family time for all children in need with their families. However, depending on the legal status this duty is different. Schedule 2 paragraph 10 of 1989 Children Act requires local authorities to promote family time between a child who does not have a cared for status but who is living away from home and his or her family where it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard and promote his or her welfare. Schedule 2 paragraph 15 requires local authorities to endeavour to promote family time between a child who is cared for and his family unless it is not practicable or consistent with the child's welfare.

In some circumstances management of family time arrangements can cause some conflict for both informal and formal family and friends' carers. This can often be due to family dynamics and how the parents of the child or young person may be viewing the arrangement.



If there are any concerns regarding safeguarding the child or young person's welfare, then there will be a need for children's services to support and ensure that safe contact arrangements are made.

For children cared for by the local authority, contact arrangements will be included in the child's Care Plan and the specific arrangements will be set out in the child's Placement Plan.

12. Informal Care Arrangements

Where a child cannot be provided care within his or her immediate family, the family may make their own arrangements to provide care for the child within their family and friends' network. The local authority does not have a duty to assess any such informal family and friends care arrangements, unless it appears that services may be necessary to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child or young person in need. The local authority has a responsibility under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to assess the child or young person's needs and provide services to meet any assessment needs of the child or young person. Following assessment, a child in need plan will be drawn up and support

12.1. Information about services and support

There are some differences between the entitlement to different forms of support by informal family and friends' carers and by those who are foster carers to a child or young person accommodated by the local authority. These are summarised in Annex B of this document.

12.2. Financial support

Parents retain their responsibility for maintenance of their children if they live with informal family and friends' carers. However, in some circumstances there can be significant challenges for informal family and friends' carers who may not have the financial resources to maintain a child or young persons' care needs. Some family and friends' carers will need to give up work in order to provide care for the child or young person.

Informal family and friends' carers should access benefits advice to ensure that they claim all the benefits and tax credits to which they are entitled.

Advice is available at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>

However, there may still be financial difficulties. Local authorities have the capacity to make payments to children in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Payments can be made as a one-off payment which, for example, could help with equipping a bedroom for the child or young person or the local authority could provide financial help on a regular basis.

The child or young persons' social worker will discuss with the parent(s) and those caring for the child or young person the need for financial support and if this is considered necessary to meet the child's needs, the social worker will complete a financial assessment. Payment will only be made in line with the local authority's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



In all situations where regular financial support is agreed, a letter will be sent detailing the amount and duration of financial support that is to be provided, including when the agreement will be reviewed.

If the child or young person does require care arrangements to be provided by the local authority (resulting in a looked after status) and accommodated in foster care, then the fostering allowances and fees would be paid to the carer at the appropriate rate. Further information can be found on East Riding of Yorkshire Council's website. <https://www.eastriding.gov.uk>

13. How to contact East Riding of Yorkshire Council Children Services

Customer Services Centre (including out of hours): 01482 393939

14. Complaints

East Riding of Yorkshire Council strive to provide the best possible Service to children, young people, and their families. We recognise however that in some situations family and friend carers may not feel that we have met the standard expected. It is important to us that the children and families we support feel able to express their concerns and feel confident that this will be taken seriously.

If a family and friends carer wish to make a complaint or comment about the way that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council have carried out its powers and duties, they can provide feedback in the ways detailed below.

- Via a member of staff that you have been in contact with.
- By calling our customer Service centre on 01482 393939 between 07.30am and 6.00pmm Monday through to Friday.
- By filling in a feedback form at any Customer Service Centre, Leisure Centre, or library via your computer.
- Via your councillor.

15. Your Views

We would very much like to hear from you about how we can further improve this Policy. Please send your comments to: <mailto:fostering@eastriding.gov.uk>



Annex A: Caring For Someone Else's Child - Options

Adapted from the Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities DfE (2010)

	Family Care (Informal)	Private Fostering	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Child Arrangements Order	Special Guardianship Order	Adoption
Route Into the Caring Arrangement	<p>The relative has chosen to offer and provide care for a child or young person but does not have parental responsibility, and the arrangement was not made by the local authority</p> <p>The child does not have a looked after status.</p> <p>This may occur when relatives perceive the parents to be unable to care for the child or young person;</p> <p>Or the parents may have died or otherwise not be</p>	<p>This is a private arrangement whereby the child or young person is being care for, for 28 days or more (or the intention is that the arrangement will last for 28 days 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 civil</p>	<p>The child has been accommodated with the relative or friend by the local authority, because the person who had been caring for the child was deemed not to be providing suitable care.</p> <p>The child or young person will be provided with a 'looked after child status' and so the local authority must approve the relative or friend as a local authority foster carer.</p>	<p>The child or young person has a looked after child status being accommodated by the local authority under section 20 Children Act 1989 or because the child is subject to a care order; but has been accommodated with a foster carer by the local authority.</p> <p>(Alternatively, the local authority may choose to accommodate a child into residential care where this is considered to</p>	<p>The child or young person may be at risk of requiring a looked after status and a friend or relative applies for an order, or</p> <p>The child may have previously had a 'looked after' and their foster carer or other relative / friend applies for an order.</p> <p>In either circumstance, application can be made without the support of the parents or the local authority. Relatives may apply for an order after the child has lived with them for a year.</p> <p>Or there can be benign reasons. eg, after parents' death and in line with a prior agreement between the birth parents and the carer.</p> <p><u>Link to - Child Arrangements Order Procedures Special Guardianship Order Procedures</u></p>	<p>In relation to children and young people with a 'Looked after status': the LA may decide that the child should be offered the opportunity for adoption. They can only do so with the consent of the birth parent or under a placement order made by the court.</p> <p>An approved foster carer can apply for an adoption order after a year of caring for the child or young person. Other</p>	



	<p>available (For example in prison);</p> <p>Or there may be an agreement between relatives due to difficult family circumstances.</p>	<p>partnership) or a stepparent. The child or young person is not provided with a 'looked after child status'.</p>	<p>The child may be accommodated voluntarily with the agreement of the parents or where this is not possible may be subject to a care order.</p>	<p>best meet the child's needs).</p>		<p>informal carers could apply for an adoption order if the child or young person has lived with them for a period of 3 years.</p>
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Parental Responsibility (PR)	Parental responsibility remains with birth parents but the person who cares for the child may do what is reasonable to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.	Parental responsibility Remains with birthparents.	Remains with birth parents or the identified persons with parental responsibility if child accommodated under section 20 CA, or if the child is subject to a care order or emergency protection order the local authority will have parental responsibility and determines the extent to which it may be exercised by others.	Shared by parents and holder of Child Arrangements Order	Parental responsibility is shared with parents and anyone else with parental responsibility for the child or young person. The special guardian may exercise parental responsibility to the exclusion of all other with PR, apart from another special guardian.	Transfer to adopters and relationship with birth parents is severed.
Approval Basis	None	The arrangement is assessed by the local Authority, but the carer is not 'approved' as a local authority foster carer is. The arrangement may be prohibited if assessed by the local authority as unsuitable.	Approved as local authority foster carers in accordance with Fostering Service Regulations. (If child has a 'looked after status', carers must be approved as foster carers even if close relative.	Appointed by court following application.	Appointed by court following application from applicant. Local Authority must familiarise themselves with the application and circumstances relating and prepare a report for the court dealing with the suitability of the applicant to be a	Adoption agency assesses and approves prospective adopters, court makes order regarding a specific child or young person. If the child does not have a 'looked after status' then notice of intention to adopt must be given to the Local



					special guardian.	Authority who then carry out an assessment / report for the court.
Duration	Subject to discretion of person with Parental responsibility	Subject to discretion of person with Parental responsibility and readiness of private foster carer.	So long as placement remains in line with child or young person's care plan as determined by The Local Authority.	Age 18	Age 18 unless varied or discharged by the court before the child reaches 18 years.	Permanent lifelong relationship.



	Family Care (Informal)	Private Fostering	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Child Arrangements Order	Special Guardianship Order	Adoption
Care and living arrangement Supervision	None	It is not categorised as 'placement', but there are statutory visits to child by social worker (minimum 6 weekly in first year, then 12 weekly)	Statutory: visits to child or young person by a social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker.		None	None	When the local authority is supporting with a child or young person's adoption, the Care and living arrangement are supervised and there are statutory reviews. Once the adoption order is made there is no supervision.
Review of care and living arrangements	None	It is not a placement, but the LA may do formal reviews in addition to ongoing assessment during visits.	Statutory review of child's care plan (minimum 6 monthly) and annual reviews of local authority foster carers' approval.		None	None	See Above



<p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is no entitlement, but the Local Authority may assess the child as a child in need, with a child in need plan, and provide services / support for child / family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.</p>	<p>Provision of advice and support as determined necessary by the Local Authority, which may assess the child or young person as a child in need, with a child in need plan, and provide services / support for child/family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.</p>	<p>Support to meet child or young person's needs including health plan and personal education plan.</p> <p>Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with the Fostering Service regulations, NMS and TSD standards.</p> <p>Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services.</p>	<p>No entitlement (But LA has discretion to provide services / support for child / young person and family under section 17 of the Children's Act)</p>	<p>If a child or young person had a 'looked after status' prior to making the Special Guardianship Order, Local Authorities must assess for need for special guardianship support services. The Local Authority has discretion whether to provide support.</p> <p>A Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services if they have a 'looked after child status' prior to making the Special Guardianship Order.</p>	<p>Entitlement to assessment for adoption support services, which may be provided at discretion of the Local Authority in accordance with Regulations and National Minimum Standards.</p>
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	Family Care (Informal)	Private Fostering	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Child Arrangements Order	Special Guardianship Order	Adoption
Financial Support Entitlement	<p>Carers can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>Financial responsibility for overall maintenance for the child remains with holders of Parental responsibility.</p> <p>Guardians Allowance Benefits may be payable if both parents have died, or the only surviving parent cannot be found or sentenced to 2 years or more prison sentence.</p>	<p>Carers can claim child tax benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>Financial responsibility for overall maintenance for the child remains with holders of parental responsibility.</p>	<p>Child benefit and child tax credit not payable.</p> <p>Weekly allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child or young person. This should meet at least the national minimum rate set by the Department for Education.</p> <p>The Manchester City Council judgement ruled that allowances must be the same for all foster carers, whether they family and friends' carers or not.</p> <p>Link to <u>East Riding of Yorkshire Council Fostering Information Page</u></p>		<p>Carers can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.</p>	<p>Carers can claim child tax benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.</p>	<p>Carers can claim child tax benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.</p> <p>Entitlement to assessment for financial support (party of adoption support) if the child or young person had looked after status prior to order.</p>



Financial Support Discretionary	The Local Authority has discretion to make one-off or regular payments under section 17 Children Act	The Local Authority has discretion to make one-off or regular payments under section 17	Some fostering providers make an additional payment to recognise the carers' skill, experience, and commitment. <u>Link to Payments for Foster Carers Information</u>	The Local Authority has discretion to pay a Child Arrangements Order allowance - usually if the child or young person was previously fostered by the carers, or exceptionally if making Child Arrangements Order prevents a child	Entitlement to an assessment for financial support under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005, if child or young person had a 'looked after status' prior to order and meets the criteria in the regulations.	Subject to assessment, one off payments or regular adoption allowance may be paid.



	Family Care (Informal)	Private Fostering	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Child Arrangements Order	Special Guardianship Order	Adoption
					<p>becoming 'looked after' by the local authority. Any allowance is reviewed annually and is means tested.</p> <p>Allowance date of application to finance is not backdated.</p> <p><u>Link to Child Arrangements Order</u></p>	<p>Subject to assessment as above for former foster carers can include an element of remuneration.</p> <p>Regular or on off payments.</p> <p>Any allowances reviewed annually.</p>	



Annex B - Entitlement to support by family and friends' carers under Children Act 1989 Section 17 and Section 20 or Section 31

Child in need supported under section 17(in an informal arrangement)	Child accommodated under section 20or Section 31
The child or young person is not provided with a 'looked after by the local authority status'.	The child has a 'looked after by the local authority status'and resides in a regulated placement.
The child or young person will not have a care plan but there may be a child in need plan or child protection plan.	The child or young person must have a care plan (including health plan, personal education plan and placement plan) which will be reviewed by an independent reviewing officer.
If there is a child in need plan or a child protection plan a social worker or other worker may visit the child or young person and parent.	A social worker will visit the child or young person and carers and oversee the child's welfare.
The child or young person must be offered access to an advocacy service where they make or intend to make representations under section 26 of the 1989 Act.	The child or young person must be offered access to an advocacy service where they make or intend to make representations under section 26 of the 1989 Act.
The carers will not usually have a separate social worker.	A supervising social worker will be appointed for the foster carers.
The local authority has discretion to give financial assistance (which can be on the basis of regular payments) but there is no entitlement and family income may be taken into account since the local authority must have regard to the means of the child and parents under section 17(8) of the 1989 Act.	A weekly fostering allowance will be paid.
Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit may be payable subject to the Department for Works and pensions (DWP) terms and conditions.	There is no entitlement to Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit.
Support may be offered to the carers and/or child or young person but is discretionary.	Training and support must be offered to the foster carers.
There is no entitlement to leaving care support.	On leaving care the young person may be eligible for ongoing support under the 1989 Act (as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000).



Any support offered will cease when the young person becomes 18, unless criteria are met for support from adult services.	The local authority is able to offer continuing support (including financial support) to the carers until the young person is 21, and to support the young person in respect of education and training until they become 25. Staying Put Policy '.
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Annex C: Useful organisations and information for family and friends carers

East Riding Lifelong networks and Family group conference Service – Family Group conferences, request for service pathway –



FGC Flowchart.pdf

Action for Prisoners' Families works to reduce the negative impact of imprisonment on prisoners' families. Produces publications and resources, and provides advice, information, and training as well as networking opportunities. www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk Address: Unit 21, Carlson Court 116 Putney Bridge Road London, SW152NQ, Tel:02088123600 E-mail: info@actionpf.org.uk

Advice line: 0808 808 2003 info@prisonersfamilieshelpline.org.uk

Addaction Offers a range of support developed for families and carers affected by substance misuse. www.addaction.org.uk Address: 67-69 Cowcross Street London EC1M6PU Tel. 020 7251 5860 Email: info@addaction.org.uk

Adfam works with families affected by drugs and alcohol and supports carers of children whose parents have drug and alcohol problems. www.adfam.org.uk Address: 25 Corsham Street, London N1 6DR Tel: 0207553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) offers free independent advice and information for parents and carers on a range of state education and schooling issues, including admissions, exclusion, attendance, special educational needs and bullying. www.ace-ed.org.uk Address: 1c Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2DQ General Advice line: 0808 800 5793 Exclusion advice line: 0808 800 0327 Exclusion information line: 020 7704 9822 (24hr answer phone)

BeGrand.net website offering information and advice to grandparents, plus online and telephone advice. www.begrand.net Helpline: 0845 434 6835

Children's Legal Centre provides free independent legal advice and factsheets to children, parents, carers, and professionals. www.childrenslegalcentre.com Address: University of East Riding of Yorkshire Council Wivenhoe Park Colchester East Riding of Yorkshire Council CO4 3SQ Tel: 01206 877 910 E-mail: clc@EastRidingofYorkshireCouncil.ac.uk Child Law Advice Line: 0808 802 0008 Community Legal Advice - Education: 0845 345 4345



Citizens Advice Bureaux helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent, and Confidential advice through local bureaux and website. www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Coram Baaf supports agencies and professionals who work with children and young people in care. Website: <http://www.corambaaf.org.uk/>

Department for Education lists details of telephone help lines and online services to provide information, advice, and support on a range of issues that parents and families may face in bringing up children and young people. www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families

Family Fund Trust Helps families with severely disabled or seriously ill children to have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life. Gives grants for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child and their family. Address: 4 Alpha Court Monks Cross Drive York YO32 9WN www.familyfund.org.uk Tel: 0845 130 4542 Email: info@familyfund.org.uk

Family Rights Group (FRG) Provides advice to parents and other family members whose children are involved with or require children's social care services because of welfare needs or concerns. Publishes resources, helps to develop support groups for family and friends' carers, and runs a discussion board. www.frg.org.uk Address: Second Floor The Print House 18 Ashwin Street London E8 3DL Tel: 020 7923 2628 Advice line: 0800 801 0366 Email: advice@frg.org.uk

The Fostering Network Supports foster carers and anyone with an interest in fostering to improve the lives of children in care. Publishes resources and runs Fosterline, a confidential advice line for foster carers including concerns about a child's future, allegations and complaints, legislation, and financial matters. www.fostering.net Address: 87 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HA Email: info@fostering.net Tel: 020 7620 6400 Fosterline: 0800 040 7675 Email: fosterline@fostering.net

Grandparents Plus Champions the role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives, especially when they take on the caring role in difficult family circumstances. Address: Grandparents Plus 18 Victoria Park Square Bethnal Green London E2 9PF Tel: 020 8981 8001 Email: info@grandparentsplus.org.uk . For grandparents looking after a relative's child Tel: 0300 123 7015. For grandparents who've lost contact with a grandchild 0300 033 7015.

Mentor UK Promotes the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to lives. www.mentoruk.org.uk Address: Fourth Floor 74 Great Eastern Street London EC2A 3JG Tel: 020 7739 8494 Email: admin@mentoruk.org

Family Mediation Helpline Provides information and advice about family mediation services and eligibility for public funding. 08456 026627 www.familymediationhelpline.co.uk

National Family Mediation (NFM) provides mediation services to support couples who are separated, and their children and others affected by this. www.nfm.org.uk 4 Barnfield Hill, Exeter EX1 1SR. 0300 4000 636 general@nfm.org.uk



Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group operates helpline and provides a variety of services to support anyone who has a link with someone in prison, prisoners, and other agencies. www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk Address: Valentine House 1079 Rochdale Road Blackley Manchester M9 8AJ Tel: 0161 702 1000 Offenders' Families Helpline Tel: 08088082003 Email: info@prisonersfamilieshelpline.co.uk

Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) provides practical and emotional support to prisoners and to their children and families. The Kinship Care Support Service provides support and advice to family members and friends who care for children whose parents are in HMP Holloway. www.prisonadvice.org.uk Address: Park Place 12 Lawn Lane Vauxhall London SW8 1UD Telephone: 020 77359535 55

Parents Against Drug Abuse (PADA) Delivers support and services to the families of substance users, including a national helpline. www.pada.org.uk Address: The Foundry Marcus Street Birkenhead CH41 1EU Phone: 0151 649 1580 National Families Helpline: 08457 023867

Parentline Plus provides help and support in all aspects of family life, including information, an online chat facility and a 24-hour helpline. www.familylives.org.uk Address: CAN Mezzanine 49-51 East Road London N16AH Tel: 020 7553 3080 24hr Advice line: 0808 800 2222 Email: parentsupport@familylives.org.uk

TalktoFrank the government's national drugs helpline which offers free confidential drugs information and advice 24 hours a day. Information and advice is also available via the website. www.talktofrank.com 24-hour advice line: 0800 77 66 00 Text: 82111 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Voice Advocacy organisation for children living away from home or in need. www.voiceyp.org Address: 320 City Road London EC1V 2NZ Tel: 020 78335792 Young person's advice line: 0808 800 5792 Email: info@voiceyp.org

Young Minds Works to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people and empowering their parents and carers. www.youngminds.org.uk Address: 48-50 St John Street London EC1M 4DG Tel: 020 7336 8445 Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544



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