

Barnardo's CSE Foster placement guidance

For children/young people at risk of
child sexual exploitation

Version: 1.0

Date Issue: January 2014

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Review Date: January 2018

Team: Children and Families

Protective Marking: Internal

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This guidance is intended to support staff when a specialist placement is being considered for a child who has previously been assessed as high risk of child sexual exploitation.
- 1.2 The guidance is for all social work staff in Children and Families Business Unit, fostering services and the independent reviewing officer service.

2. Aim and criteria for of the CSE foster placement

- 2.1 The aim of the CSE Foster Placement is reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation. Children and young people must have previously been assessed as high risk of child sexual exploitation.
- 2.2 The Barnardo's CSE foster placement is to support young people to provide a safe place away from home or their usual foster placement. The carer and other professionals will help young people realise and understand they are being exploited and abused. Young people may already have this understanding and need to move to a placement to escape the exploitation or access support following trauma of sexual abuse.
- 2.3 All placements will seek to provide a safe environment where young people feel able to build trusting relationships with adults whilst undertaking work with a range of professionals. This work will explore, divert away from and address risks, particularly the push and pull factors around CSE and missing.
- 2.4 A reduction in missing episodes, reduction in anti-social activity, criminality and substance misuse will also be key aims of the placement, where these are factors for the young person.
- 2.5 Foster carers will work with young people, their family and other professionals to support the young person to safely disclosure their experiences, build resilience, promote wellbeing and coping mechanisms to prevent future abuse. This will be achieved through one to one work and supporting engagement in education.
- 2.6 The criteria for young people entering the foster placement is that they are assessed as high risk of sexual exploitation and have the active involvement of the Child Sexual Exploitation Team.

- 2.7 Consideration needs to be given to the location of foster placements. This will vary depending upon foster carer availability and so will need careful risk assessment and consideration between the social worker and Barnardo's.

3. Expectations of the placement

- 3.1 Children and young people, with their families are expected to engage in one to one work from the CSE team during their time within the placement. This is usually direct work completed by a CSE social worker and/or CSE Barnardo's worker on a weekly basis. Work with parents on a one to one regarding CSE and missing will also usually be undertaken. This will be provided by the CSE team.
- 3.2 Young people within the placement can usually expect to initially only have supervised access to mobile phones, internet and any technology devices. This is due to risk of CSE via the internet. The foster carers will supervise this activity. This will include young people needing to agree to turning off and handing to their carer any technology devices upon arrival at the placement and to maintain this during the time at the placement until agreed otherwise.

4. Length of placement

- 4.1 The Barnardo's CSE foster placement is usually for a short term period. The usual length of stay in the CSE foster placement will be a minimum of three months but will not exceed six months.

5. Referral Process

- 5.1 The usual referral process for a foster placement to the Warwickshire Placement Hub should be completed by the allocated social worker.
- 5.2 The decision to consider a placement with Barnardo's must be made by the Service Manager for CSE or by the Fostering Team Operations Manager. The Warwickshire Placement Hub will check availability with Barnardo's, once access to this placement is confirmed and authorised.

- 5.3 The operations manager must check that the criteria for the placement are met. Where this is not the case another type of supported fostering placement will need to be identified.
- 5.4 The allocated social worker will complete a risk assessment over the telephone with Barnardo's. The fostering referral form will be forwarded by the Placement Hub to Barnardo's. Once both the referral form and risk assessment have been completed and signed the information is shared with the relevant foster carer by Barnardo's, who will then confirm whether the placement is able to go ahead or not.

6. Support during the placement

- 6.1 The Warwickshire CSE social care team manager will be notified within 24 hours when a placement is made by the Placement Hub. They will then ensure appropriate allocated workers are in place. They will actively engage and support the young person, the carer and the young person's family.
- 6.2 Children placed may have a history of going missing. Where this is the case they will have a trigger plan, which will be used to guide the carer and make it clear to children, young people and parents what actions will be taken when the young person's whereabouts are unknown.
- 6.3 Social Workers are expected to engage and attend every placement meeting and to ensure visits are completed weekly for the first three months of the placement and fortnightly thereafter. They must also ensure other work with the family and young person is initiated and in place. This placement is short term and needs time invested to ensure that direct work is completed to reduce risk of CSE in the future.

7. Review of progress

- 7.1 A meeting will be held involving the young person and where appropriate their parents within the first five days of the placement and thereafter every four weeks.
- 7.2 The meeting will review progress of the placement, identify areas of work needed and will always use the CSE risk assessment tool to re-assess and consider the current child sexual exploitation risks. The minutes of the review meeting will be sent to operations manager in Barnardo's, the children's team and CSE team.

8. Contact Details

- 8.1 Barnardo's Albion Court Foster Care Service, 72 Attleborough Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4JJ. Telephone: 02476 641206 Email: albioncourt@barnardos.org.uk
- 8.2 Warwickshire Fostering Hub, Kings House, Bedworth. Telephone: 02476 754164 or 02476 754165. Email: placementhubreferrals@warwickshire.gov.uk
- 8.2.1 Warwickshire Child Sexual Exploitation Team. Telephone: 01926 742226. Email: childsexualexploitation@warwickshire.gcsx.gov.uk

9. Further Information

[Tacking Child Exploitation](#)
[Warwickshire CSE website](#)