

## Private Fostering Referral

Referral to Compass/ICT regarding a child under the age of 16, or 18 with a disability, being privately fostered with friends or non-close relatives. These include cousins, great aunts/uncles or non-married partners. The placement will last longer than 28 days.

Decision made by ICT SSW whether the threshold is met for child in need (s.17 or s.47) making reference to the threshold document.

Notify Fostering Team Manager (CPS) and CPS duty desk of referral to begin the assessment of the carers.

No

yes

If the child is not identified as in need, no action is required by children's social work team. CPS will complete the carer's assessment and conduct the statutory visits:

1<sup>st</sup> year – every 6 weeks

Every 12 weeks in the second and subsequent years

Additionally, if reasonable requested to do so by the child, private foster carer or parent.

Assessment Team Manager to allocate to social worker, to begin the social work assessment.

If Child in Need implement a Child in Need Plan. If not, case to close and CPS to case manage visits.

If during this carer's assessment the CPS Team Manager believes the young person is a Child in Need (and children's social work team is not involved at this stage) CPS Team Manager to refer back to ICT for further consideration.

First social work visit within 7 days of referral. This could be undertaken by either children's social work team or Fostering Team Social Worker or jointly if a joint assessment is being completed.

CPS completes the carer's assessment within 28 days.

Social Work assessment to be completed (if appropriate) within 45 working days.

Suitability Panel to be held within 21 days.

If unsuccessful the family to be notified and asked to make alternative arrangements.

If approved visits to be undertaken as detail above.

The Private Fostering arrangement ends:

1. On the young person's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, or 18 with a disability.
2. If the Carers obtain Residence Order/Parental Responsibility.
3. If the young person returns to live with a close family member.