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### Departmental Policy Guidelines

Issued	
For Review	<b>Sep 2021</b>

PPD 524(05)

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- a) Research shows us that young people in stable placements or accommodation are more likely to achieve better outcomes and a more fulfilling future. Therefore, through focused care and pathway planning, young people, their carers, social workers and personal advisors can facilitate a smooth transition towards independence.
- b) Bury's offer to Children in Care and Care Leavers includes a commitment to supporting young people to remain in their foster care placement beyond age 18 up to the age of 21, and beyond 21 to enable the young person to complete their education. This is irrespective of whether the foster carer is an approved Bury carer, Family and Friends carer or a foster carer from an Independent Fostering Agency.
- c) For young people in foster care between their 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> birthdays, consideration needs to be given as to whether the young person wishes to remain living with their carers beyond age 18 and whether the carers are able to provide this.

## **2. SCOPE OF THIS PROCEDURE**

This procedure is relevant for Children in Care whose care plan is to remain on a permanent basis with their foster carers. It does not relate to children who have significant disabilities who are eligible to be supported by Adult Care. For the latter young people, their placements may continue under the approved Adult Care scheme (which approves their carers as an Adult placement provider).

## **3. PROCEDURE & PAYMENTS OVERVIEW**

- a) The Fostering team will continue to take responsibility for DBS checks for carers. When the decision for Continuing Care is agreed and confirmed at the exit Looked After Child review meeting, the Fostering team will ascertain the bank details from the carer and pass to the Care and Support Service (see appendix 2). For Independent Foster Carers the allocated Social Worker will be responsible for collating and passing on the bank details.
- b) Payments will match the Bury weekly maintenance allowance and the "fostering community parent" fee received by the carer. The payments will exclude pocket money and clothing money as the

young person will be receiving money in their own right to cover these at 18. The Team B Manager, Care and Support Service will arrange for the payments to be put in place and will ensure the foster carers are contacted to confirm the arrangements. If for unforeseeable reasons approval is incomplete before the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, payments will continue, pending agreement.

- c) Monies to support the continuing care placement will be paid until the young person is age 21, and beyond age 21 to enable the young person to complete their education whilst the young person is residing with the provider.
- d) If the young person is eligible for Housing Benefit, a claim will be made. The Personal Adviser will negotiate with the local authority to attempt to get the monies paid to the carers directly, but if this is not possible, then it will need to be paid to the young person.
- e) Any additional funding required by the carer/provider will need to be recommended to and agreed by the Strategic Lead Corporate Parenting.
- f) Continuing support will be provided by the Personal Adviser, who will primarily support the young person.

## **2. EXPECTATIONS OF THE PLACEMENT**

- a) It is expected that Foster Carers will continue to support young people in developing their independence/life skills i.e. :-
  - Cooking
  - Shopping
  - Cleaning
  - Budgeting
  - Making appointments
  - Accessing Education, Training or Employment
  - Taking responsibility for their health & wellbeing

This will be renewed and updated as part of the Pathway Plan process.

- It is expected that carers will continue to fully support Young People to access Education, Training or Employment, this will be reviewed and updated as part of the Pathway Plan review process.

### **3. OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS**

- a) The Personal Adviser will monitor and oversee the extent to which the Continuing Care arrangement is meeting the young person's needs. This will be formally reviewed on a 6 monthly basis via the review of the Pathway Plan.
- b) Any concerns about a placement from other staff/agencies should be passed to the Manager (Team B) Care and Support Service.
- c) Any concerns or problems identified in meeting the young person's needs will be discussed with the carers and plans made to address these, in collaboration with the carers and the young person. If it is the collective view that the concerns are such that the young person's needs cannot be met by the placement a decision may be made to terminate the arrangement.
- d) If there are any safeguarding issues attributable to the carers, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Procedure must be followed and any decisions made to terminate the arrangement would be made within this process. The need to follow Safeguarding Children Procedures must also be considered in this circumstance in relation to the implications for any children within the household and children with whom the carers have contact in either a personal or professional capacity. A Safeguarding Plan will be in place for all young people to ensure what carers need to do in cases of emergency where there is serious risk to a young person. Carers need to be part of the process of updating any Safeguarding Plan.

### **6. TAX AND BENEFIT IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTINUING CARERS**

- a) There should be no financial disadvantage to the carers receiving the Continuing Care payments in any circumstances other than where the carers are themselves receiving Housing Benefit. In this situation, the individual circumstances will be taken into account and a top up may be made to prevent the carers from being financially disadvantaged.
- b) It is advisable that carers seek advice from their local tax office re any implications in having a Continuing Care placement.

Dear

This is to confirm that your payments for (*name*) as part of the Continuing Care process will commence from (*date*) and will be (*amount*). This amount is equivalent to the weekly maintenance fee and the fostering community parent's fee.

You will receive this payment on a weekly basis, usually on a Tuesday by BACS payment into your bank account.

If you wish to discuss any issues about your payment please contact XXXXX on the above number.

Yours sincerely

## **PAYMENT OF CONTINUING CARE ALLOWANCE TO FOSTER CARERS**

(To be completed by the Supervising Social Worker and Foster Carers following a Young person's final/exit LAC Review)

**FOSTER CARERS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUNG PERSON'S DETAILS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Foster Carer Rate payable      £                              (weekly)**

**Is Foster Carer/s in receipt of Housing Benefit  
For current address                              Yes/No**

**I/We consent to my/our bank details being transferred from the  
Fostering Team/Agency to the Care and Support Service to enable  
the Continuing Care Allowance to be paid direct into my/our bank  
account**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Foster Carer)

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Foster Carer)

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Account Details**

**Bank Name:**

**Account Name:**

**Sort Code:**

**Account Number:**

**Please return to: Care and Support Service (Team B)**