



**TIME OUT**  
fostering

*valuing individual needs*

## SECTION FOUR

# PLACEMENT PROCESS

2007

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### 1. PLACEMENTS OFFERED BY TIME OUT FOSTERING;

**Foster Care** – Time Out Fostering can offer:

- Respite placements- short-term regular stays, ideally with the same foster carer.
- Short term- up to three months
- Long term
- Emergency
- Bridging
- Assessment
- Mother and baby
- Siblings

**Support Care** – this offers part time care to children and young people on a time limited and contractual basis. Support Care can also offer local temporary care for looked after children who are placed in an educational establishment away from their home locality. Support care can offer placements in the following ways;

- weekends weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
- during the week overnight stays.
- occasional 'Time out' or holiday respite.
- day care in school holidays or periods of exclusion.
- maintaining or expanding cultural links offering support care from the cultural or ethnic background of the child.

- facilitating family contact when a child is placed out of the area where their family lives.
- For mother and baby

## **Levels of Support Care Packages**

### **1) Low Level Support**

For example, up to 10 hours' input per week, this could range from the carer phoning the long-term family twice a week to the carer being available to receive some call from 8.00a.m. to 10.00p.m.

### **2) Medium Level Support**

For example, from 12 – 18 hours input per week, from carers making or receiving daily phone call from 8.00a.m. to 10.00p.m. to carers making home visits in addition to calls.

### **3) High Level Support**

For example, from 20 to 30 hours' input per week, from daily direct contact to carers being on call 24 hours per day.

Support would include emotional and practical help with routines, challenging behaviour and general parenting.

Carers will be specially selected and receive additional training for this role. They will receive a higher level of supervision than for standard fostering.

## **2. MATCHING CHILDREN WITH CARERS**

Time Out Fostering adheres to all relevant legislation on the placements of children with foster carers.

Children will be matched with carers taking into account the following;

- The commitments to existing carer family networks and the related physical and psychological capacity of the carer
- The requests of the carer
- A carer will not be approved to look after more than three children unless they are a sibling group that is subject to statutory requirements
- Shared carers would only be approved to look after one child with a disability at any time, however the exception to this is a sibling group.
- Specified age range based upon the age of any other children living with the carers and the carer's expertise with a particular developmental age group.
- In the case of children with disabilities the shared carers will be approved for developmental needs rather than a specific age range.
- The cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, racial and disability needs of the child and young person will be matched with the ability and experience of the carer.
- The size of the carers current accommodation

If the carers have other foster children they will be consulted about the proposed placement, along with the Placing Local Authority Social Worker. Following selection the child should visit the carers, then planned introductions should be made.

If the foster carers know of the child being proposed they must declare an interest with the Time Out Fostering placement manager immediately.

### **3. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND VALUING DIVERSITY**

If a child has cultural differences from their carer, Time Out Fostering supports and expects the carers to develop a good understanding. This may include the following issues;

- gender
- disability
- race
- religion
- nationality
- ethnic or national heritage
- sexual orientation

Time Out Fostering expects carers to respect the culture of the child and encourage the child to maintain contact with their culture.

#### **Relevant Legislation**

Children and young people are placed with foster carers under regulation 2 of The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991.

## PLACEMENT FLOWCHART

