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Departmental Policy Guidelines

Issued	
For Review	

PPD 524(05)

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Research shows us that young people in stable placements/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 pledge to look after children includes a commitment to supporting young people to remain in their foster care placement beyond 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, friends & family carer or a carer from an Independent Fostering Agency.
- c) For young people in foster care between the 15th and 16th birthdays, consideration needs to be given to whether the young person wishes to remain living with their carers beyond 18 and whether the carers are able to provide this.

2. SCOPE OF THIS PROCEDURE

This procedure is relevant for "Looked after Children" whose plan is to remain on a permanent basis with 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 Adult placement providers). For those young people with disabilities who are ineligible for Adult care placements, the following procedure applies.

3. PROCEDURE & PAYMENTS OVERVIEW

- a) The Fostering team will continue to take responsibility for CRB clearance for carers. When the decision for Continuing Care is finally confirmed at the exit review, Fostering team will ascertain bank details from the carer and pass to The Care and Support Service (see appendix 2).
- b) Payments will match the Bury MBC weekly maintenance allowance and the "fostering community parent" fee received by the carer, taking into account any reduction for other children in the

placement. 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 manager, Care and Support Service, will arrange for the payment and will ensure the carers are contacted to confirm the arrangement. If for unforeseeable reasons approval is incomplete before the young person's 18th birthday, payments will continue, pending approval.

- c) Monies to support the continuing care placement will be paid until the young person is 21, and beyond 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 provider will need to be recommended to, and agreed by, the Assistant Director, Social Care.
- 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 skills i.e.:-
 - Cooking
 - Shopping
 - Cleaning
 - Budgeting
 - Taking responsibility for their health & wellbeing

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

- b) It is expected that carers will continue to support Young People to be in EET, which will be reviewed and updated as part of the Pathway Plan.

3. OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

- a) The Personal Adviser will monitor and oversee the extent to which the 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 made in writing to the manager of the 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 of the Care and Support Service Management Team that the concerns are such that the young person's needs cannot be met by the placement, any additional funding of the placement can be withdrawn.
- d) If there are 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.

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6. TAX AND BENEFIT IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTINUING CARERS

- a) There should be no financial disadvantage to carers receiving the Staying Put 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 "top ups" 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.

CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICE (CASS)
POST 18 STAYING PUT POLICY & PROCEDURE



Karen Dolton
Executive Director of Children and Young People

Our Ref /
Your Ref
Date
Please ask for Zoe Edmonds
Direct Line 0161 253 6666
Direct Fax 0161 253 6676
E-mail z.edmonds@bury.gov.uk

Dear

This is to confirm that your payments for (*name*) as part of the Staying Put 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 Alison Forrester or Marie Malone on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Kim Harwood
Team Manager

Electronic or fax service of Legal documents is not accepted

3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury, BL9 0EJ

www.bury.gov.uk

PAYMENT OF STAYING PUT ALLOWANCE TO BURY CARERS

(To be completed by Supervising Social Worker and Foster Carers following
Young persons final 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
Fostering admin to admin at the Care and Support Service to enable
Staying Put 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: Bury Council, Family Placement Team
Children's Services. Higher Lane, Whitefield. M45 7FX**