

Catherine Lockett Fostering Services

Learning From Unplanned Endings Workshop

There are likely to be a combination of factors that results in a child's fostering arrangement ending sooner than hoped for. There is a clearly a difference in "planned endings" where the care plan has identified a future plan for children that is achieved, however, an end where this differs from the care plan for the child is an "unplanned ending", even if a child moves to an alternative carer or care arrangement in a planned way.

Unplanned endings - ofsted definition
This is a 'placement ending that was not included in the social work plan either in the ending itself or the timing of the termination' (p 12). [Berridge D and Cleaver H, Foster Home Breakdown, Oxford: Blackwell, 1987]
An unplanned ending includes a placement which ended earlier than the original planned end date (for example, because the foster carer gave notice to terminate the placement) even if a new plan was in place when the child moved placement.
Unplanned endings within 24 hours refers to when a placement ends within 24 hours of a triggering event, regardless of whether that placement has only just started or if the child has been in placement long term.



Some of the areas we can chat about are:

- How "unplanned endings" can be as "planned" as possible and the importance of "good goodbyes"
- A reflective meeting - we will look at a couple of templates together and consider the importance learnings - (made available following the workshop)
- How learning is considered for carers future matching
- How any learning is considered within the agency - the importance of recognising any themes or patterns, also how feedback is important to

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please get in touch by emailing us at

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ensure that children have better stability for their future

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