

	Document Title	Role of the Childs Social Worker
	Reference	
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	Date to be Reviewed	Every 3 years
	Authorised by	J Boyd

1. Purpose

- 1.1. First for Fostering will always work closely and alongside the child's local authority allocated social worker. This policy is to ensure the duties and responsibilities of the child's social worker are clear.

2. Legal Framework

- 2.1. Each child placed in foster care has an allocated social worker who ensures statutory requirements are met, visits in line with statutory requirements (see below) and importantly ensures the wishes and feelings of the child or young person are fully represented.

Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 (amended).

3. Visits

- 3.1. Carers are expected to work closely with the local authority allocated social worker.
- 3.2. On every visit the local authority allocated social worker must speak with the child in private. Unless the child refuses or unless the child is of such an age and understanding that this is not practicable.
- 3.3. Following each visit, the local authority allocated social worker is required to record the visit and observations and ensure the placement is meeting the needs of the child/young person.
- 3.4. If carers are worried because a social worker is not visiting a child in their care, this should be discussed with their supervising social worker, who should contact the child's local authority and draw their attention to the agreed frequency if not being met.

The number of visits depends on the needs of each child. The following are the minimum frequency: **Supervisory visits by local authority social worker.**

Up to one year:

In the first week and then every six weeks as a minimum

After one year and where the placement is intended to be long term and the child agrees.

Every three months as a minimum

N.B. The local authority social worker should participate in the placement process and also visit the child/young person within one week of the placement starting.

These are minimum requirements and a looked after review may recommend that they occur more frequently.