

## APPENDIX 2

### Fostering Expectations – Core Services

#### 1 Education

Attendance	Carers should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the child/young person attend school/college/training. Carer/s should raise any concerns about education with the social worker and Southwark's Education team where appropriate. Absence due to carers travelling overseas during term time must be approved by the relevant Southwark Team Manager.  NB: Children shall not be taken out of school for non medical reasons other than in exceptional circumstances.
To and from	All Children to be dropped off at school and picked up from school by their carer/s unless the child/young person care plan states otherwise. Walking to school is to be encouraged (all ages)
Parent's evenings	Carer/s must attend all parents' evenings.
Homework	Carer/s must encourage and assist the child/young person to do their homework through a positive home learning environment and liaise with the child/young person school as appropriate. Carer/s should familiarise themselves with the course work requirements and support the child/young person in achieving this.
Computer	Each child/young person of school age must have access to a computer with broadband and managed internet access to undertake their homework.
Libraries	Children under 11 years of age should be taken to a library at least 4 times a year and encouraged to read for recreation. The child/young person over 11 years should be actively encouraged to join and go to a library regularly. Additionally carers should purchase suitable age appropriate books for child/young person to keep.
Sickness and exclusions	Carer/s must be available to be at home with the child/young person if the child/young person is sick or has been excluded from school.
School shows and events	Carer/s must attend school shows and events.
Education support  <input type="checkbox"/>	To attend the twice annual Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings at school and undertake agreed home learning support tasks. Progress with PEP targets allocated to the foster carer to be included in supervising social worker' monthly reports to LAC social worker. The child will have ready access to a PC/laptop and internet/broadband to do homework on a daily basis.
Routines	Reading to and with children under 11 should be routine, including bedtime arrangements. Family meal times should be actively used to promote discussion. Adequate sleep and sleeping patterns are to be highly valued.
Choices in Education	Ensure the young person access the school connexions advisor at 13 years (year 9) to explore options post 16

#### 2 Health

Registration	Carer/s should ensure that the child/young person are registered with a GP, dentist and (if appropriate) health visitor within 72 hours of the placement.
Appointments	Carer to book and attend / accompany the child/young person to all GP and Hospital appointments as required. Carer to inform the social worker of any significant change in the child/young person's health.

Advice	Carer should be trained and enabled to give advice to & know where to access advice for, the child/young person regarding healthy diet, self-care, sexual health etc.
Toiletries, personal hygiene and skin/hair care products	All appropriate toiletries, including skin and hair care products and regular hair cuts/ appointments to be provided. From the age of 11 the young person is aware of need for personal hygiene and can maintain appropriate standards
Glasses and contact lenses	Provide glasses and contact lenses as required, including replacement of accidental damage or loss. Optician to specify an ophthalmic check-up at least every year.
Health	Child/young person to be registered with a GP and receive an annual health assessment. Dental check-up to be received at least once a year. To provide sexual health guidance (at 13+) to reduce incidence of teenage pregnancy and encourage positive life choices (including contraception if agreed). To complete an annual Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ) review and initial Social/Emotional Screening for children aged 0-4 entering the care system.
Diet and Exercise	Use of healthy diet and food intake to promote a health and avoid obesity. Physical activity and exercise to be actively promoted as fundamental lifestyle component
0-4 Years	Attend clinic as required and ensure good engagement with named Health Visitor

### 3 Mental Health

Appointments	Carer to book and attend / accompany the child/young person to all appointments as required. Carer to inform the social worker of any significant change in the child/young person's mental health.
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Training	Where appropriate carers receiving the child/young person with known mental health issues should be appropriately trained and supported to cope with any arising issues.

### 4 Contact – all subject to agreed risk assessment

Promote	Carer/s should encourage and promote contact between the child/young person and her family or significant others where this is an agreed part of the child/young person's care plan.
Facilitate	Carer/s should facilitate and make welcome the child/young person's family members or significant others where this is an agreed part of the child/young person's care plan.
Arrange	Carer/s should arrange the contact between siblings placed separately, family members or significant others where this is an agreed part of the child/young person's care plan.
Attend	Carer/s should attend contact to support child/young person if so requested by either the child/young person or the social worker.
Supervise	Carer/s should supervise contact where this is appropriate and where this is an agreed part of the child/young person's care plan.
Transport	Carer/s should provide transportation if required to and from any contact session.
Telephone calls	Telephone calls to family members (within the UK) and social services.

## 5 Identity

Promote	Carer/s should promote a positive image of the child/young person's ethnicity, culture and religion. The carer should attend with the child/young person any appropriate activities, church or place of worship in order to promote the child/young person's identity in a positive way.
Celebrations	Carer/s should celebrate any cultural or religious festivals or rights of passage with the child/young person.
Food	Carer/s must ensure that the meals they provide comply with the child's dietary, cultural and religious needs.
Events	Carer/s should attend with or facilitate the attendance of the child/young person any cultural events or activities that would promote the child/young person's identity.
Life story	Carer/s should be trained to either produce or actively contribute to and promote life story work in conjunction with the social worker.
Photo books / scrap books	Carer/s should take regular photographs of the child/young person and these should be put into a photo book with details of who is in the photograph, the event and the date. This should also include comments about the event from both the carer and the child/young person.
Photo books / scrap books	Carer/s should take regular photographs of the child/young person and these should be put into a photo book with details of who is in the photograph, the event and the date. This should also include comments about the event from both the carer and the child/young person.

## 6 Reports

Serious significant events	Any child protection issues and all other notifiable events should be reported to the social worker or EDT straight away and be followed up in writing as soon as possible (by email) but at most within 24 hours.
Diaries	Carer/s must keep a daily diary of significant events, behaviour, activities & observations. This diary should be shared with the SW when requested.
Reports – LAC reviews	Carer/s should produce a comprehensive report for the child/young person's LAC review. This report must be sent to the SW at least two weeks prior to the LAC review.

## 7 Reviews

Attend	Carer/s and their supervising social worker must attend every LAC review.
Facilitate	Carer/s should make a suitable area in their homes available for holding the child/young person LAC review unless for safety reasons it is decided that this is not possible.
Consultation forms	Carer/s should ensure that they complete any consultation documents and that they encourage and/or assist the young person to complete any consultation documents.

Participation	The carer/s should encourage the young person to participate in care planning and reviews in an age appropriate way.
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## 8 Independence and life skills

Skills Training	Between the age of 16.6 and 17.6, ensure the young person attends Southwark's 6 week Semi independent skills course
Savings and budgeting	Carer/s should encourage a savings habit with the child/young person, which should be discussed and agreed at the initial placement meeting. Carer/s should help the child/young person to understand how to budget responsibly by both example and by setting tasks agreed in the child/young person's care plan.
Shopping	Where age appropriate carer/s should encourage the child/young person to food and clothes shop wisely and healthily within a set weekly and monthly budget.
Menu planning	Where age appropriate carer/s should encourage the child/young person to plan healthy weekly menus using a set budget.
Cooking	Where age appropriate carer/s should encourage the child/young person to cook healthy meals using a set budget
Cleaning and maintaining a home	The child/young person's should be given age and ability appropriate household tasks and responsibilities. This should be discussed and agreed at the placement meeting and reviewed at LAC reviews.
Basic DIY skills	Where age appropriate carer/s should assist the child/young person. to acquire basic DIY skills.
Preparation for independence	Includes life skills, setting up bank accounts, management of finance and budgeting as appropriate. All 16 year olds to have their own personal bank account. At 16 all personal allowances will be paid directly into the child/young person's personal account, with which they will be responsible for clothing, recreation and personal expenses (activities).
Starting to prepare a new home	Prioritise at 17 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of a core "Starter Pack" of key equipment – See 10.2

## 9 Recreation

Encourage	Carer/s should encourage the child/young person to take up, join and participate in suitable age appropriate personal and group activities. Carer/s should support and encourage the child/young person to make and maintain suitable friendships. For younger children carer/s should arrange with other parents / carers for their children to play at the child/young person's home and for the child/young person to visit other children.
Facilitate	Carer/s should fund and facilitate age appropriate personal and group activities.
Exercise and sport	Carer/s should encourage the child/young person to exercise regularly and should encourage the child/young person to partake in sports activities.
Family outings	Carer/s should plan regular family outings and activities.
School holiday activities	Carer/s should ensure that sufficient funds are set aside to pay for school holiday activities – See 10.2
Leisure outings and activities	Family outings and agreed leisure activities. With specific relevance to hobbies - support for up to 2 after school class and 1 weekend

	activity to be included. Promoting accessing after school clubs.
Holidays	It is expected that children and young people will accompany their foster carers on holiday that is the young person is not left behind under any circumstances.

10 **Safe Care**

24 hour supervised care and accommodation	Accommodation, food and safe care that meets the child/young person's needs.
Carers	Carers are able to act as appropriate adults if a child is arrested for any reason and also to attend court with their child if necessary
Clothing (general) and school uniform	Provide appropriate clothing as required including school uniform / activity wear.

11 **Facilities & Decor**

Single rooms	Every child/young person should have their own bedroom unless they are siblings and / or it is considered appropriate for them to share a room.
Minimum furniture	Every the child/young person should have a bed, wardrobe & chest of drawers. The child/young person should have access to a suitable quiet area with a table and chair for undertaking homework.
Décor	Every home's décor should be clean and maintained to a reasonable standard. The child/young person's bedroom should be decorated in an age appropriate way. Facility should be available for the child/young person to personalise their bedrooms. Garden's and external décor should be maintained to a reasonable standard

12 **Transport**

Contact appointments, education and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where Children and Young People require transport that is in excess of 25 miles a week this need to be agreed as part of the placement plan</li> <li>• The foster carer must hold a full driving license, is insured and using road worthy transport.</li> <li>• The carer must notify their link worker within 2 working days should they receive penalty points for any motoring offence</li> </ul>
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