

15/9/23 - Attending children's reviews

- Generally the social worker in the fostering agency attends
- Reports are prepared for the reviewing officer and also CCSW
- Progress reports are in line with children's reviews
- Some agencies complete monthly progress reports and send to CCSW and IRO (LA)
 - Some are generated through outcome trackers (others have their own designed progress report)
- Children's review - so sometimes informed that the child chooses who is present and doesn't want lots of people there - however, also agencies say they know the children have not been consulted with in a meaningful way
- Foster carers generally get an invite - some carers are confident to go alone, others not - and discussion re the discussion with foster carers is sometimes not appropriate when the agency is not present - and there is a lack of discretion and understanding that some of the conversations should be outside of the child's review - especially if they are present
- 2 reviews - sometimes children not at all the meeting and sometimes parents at some of the meeting - etc - determined by the LA / considering the conflicts and working together etc of families
- Carers invite - sometimes the carer has not informed the agency of the invite until just before the meeting and difficult to support / attend (the agency is sometimes excluded from the invite)
- Agent of the carers - important to support, represent and inform of expectations etc
- Example - 13 yr old - asked if he had been asked who he wanted at his own review - had not
- Lack of children being informed of who can be at the meeting and why it might be supportive to have them there
- SSW - often know the children more than their own CCSW - better placed at the meeting - see children alone, see them regularly
- LA policy - some is not to invite to reviews
- IRO - lack of understanding of roles - and the importance of the SSW and the agency and how they can inform but also support foster carers
- SSW in the LA fostering - someone shared that this is not just about IFA's but the LA ssw is often excluded
- Review - is not just about a meeting - the importance of consultation before and after and in an ongoing way - defines planning - care planning
- Holistic contribution
- PEP's - some agencies attend and support carers to help with outcomes
- Discussion in relation to carer being put on the spot about things like - driving long distances and excessive contact (family time) and agreeing to things that are not always within children's interests etc - put on the spot
- Rehab home - discussions re this in front of children and the foster carers - when there has been permanence agreed - members say how unhelpful this is - but some LA's agenda this annually.

- Location of reviews - some agencies do not allow this in carers home, host at the office
- Virtual reviews - not helpful and not acceptable - no reason for this - however, if helpful for attendees to join that cannot get to the venue - has been useful to patch in or meeting to be virtual and where children are not willing to engage in a more formal process
- Setting up a meeting - carers get a letter saying when it is, time and venue as their home - without agreeing or being consulted with re whether this is appropriate firstly in their home and whether it fits with other children being in the home, somewhere to hold it, other commitments etc - its etiquette - how appropriate is it to be invited to a meeting that is scheduled for your own home - you live there and would be there anyway !
- Letters - are now email and not in post
- Minutes - getting mins are difficult and escalation policy often implemented
- Child not wanting a carer to attend - this needs further exploration as there is likely to be more going on and more to be considered - crucial that the agency know about this and why to ensure it can be investigated - or unannounced visits take place etc
- Timelines - generally taking place in line with requirements (however, some report delays in the early reviews - 1st mth, 3 months and then 6mthly)
- Agency support - if know the tasks, can support the carer to achieve
- Language barriers - for UAM - example re bedroom (he didn't like it as smaller than his sib), but this became the centre of everything - and no recognition of the needs being met and positives
- Stability meetings (early intervention - separate notes and guidance re this)
- Preparing carers - not their review, not about them offloading - work in inductions of carers and in an ongoing way in carer supervision
- Ssw - some in the meeting talked of being undermined in the meeting and "ignored)
- Worrying that when agency reports emotional health and worries - not taken on board
- Discussion re how logs are considered to help form reports etc
- Parent and child reports - re assessment and courts - and importance of training for carers and staff - (*nafp have a parent and child google email group*)
- Password protecting - this is how can tell that not reading reports in LA as not asking for the password - this is worrying

ADVICE - CL - *be creative and send pictures and visuals of children in their home environment and enjoying activities in and out of the home - shows how the 5 outcomes are being met / NMS 11 etc - with children's permission - a booklet of progress for the review - especially as members are saying they often put a lot of effort into monthly reports that are clearly not being read - this is also helpful for showing children with disabilities - visuals, fine motor skills etc*

Nafp - 2018 - may require updating in the future - but please see attached
[Fostering Provider Supervising Social Workers attending Looked After Children Reviews](#)