

Unannounced visits to Foster Carer Households

Standard 10: Children live in foster homes which provide adequate space, to a suitable standard. The child enjoys access to a range of activities which promote his/her development.

Standard 10.5: The Foster home is inspected annually, without appointment, by the fostering service to make sure that it continues to meet the needs of foster children.

The purpose of this visit is for Hull Fostering to monitor and evaluate the performance of the foster home and to look at the home environment. This will require discussion between the representative from Hull Fostering and the foster carer as well as direct observation.

Hull Fostering will try to visit when looked after children are present i.e. at tea time or during school holidays and the visit will entail a discussion with the child.

Who was present in the foster home when you visited?

If the carer is not at home, what arrangements have been made for the care of the child? Who is looking after the child? The social worker should check the identity of that person but should not continue with the visit. Has this person got a current CRB clearance? Hull Fostering should leave a note/message for the foster carer(s) to say that s/he has visited.

Initial observation of the interaction between the carer(s), the children and other household members.

Standards within the home:

Is the home clean and adequately furnished?

Can the home comfortably accommodate all who live there?

Is there sufficient play space?

Is this safe and child friendly?

Are toys kept in good order?

What are the levels of supervised play?

Are suitable adaptations and aids provided?

Is there a quiet area for children to do their homework?

Are outdoor spaces secure, safe and well maintained?

Do the children all have bikes and safety helmets?

Was fruit available and visible?
Does the household have a safe caring policy and was it available to view?
Do the family have a computer provided by Hull Fostering, what was the level of supervision and monitoring of the use of the laptop?
Was there any evidence of smoking within the home?
NB: A check may be necessary to the home's kitchen cupboards/fridge if hygiene conditions within the kitchen area are assessed as poor or where a looked after child's weight is of concern.

Ask the children to show you their rooms; this will also give an opportunity to talk with them on a 1:1

Bedroom (LAC)

Is it adequately furnished, any broken furniture?
Is the room warm and comfortable?
Is the child's bedding clean and in good condition?
Does the foster child have privacy?
Do they have enough space to keep their belongings i.e. toys, books?
Is clothing of a good standard and sufficient for the child's needs?
Any risks identified? Comments made by the child, if they share a room. How do they feel about this?

Bedroom (not LAC including adult children)

View the room from the doorway.
Is the room adequately furnished, is there any personal belongings in the room that could be seen as offensive for a child?
Is there any difference in provision to the looked after child's bedroom?

If the room is shared with a looked after child:

Is it adequately furnished, any broken furniture?
Is the room warm and comfortable? Does the child have privacy?
Do they have enough space to keep their belongings i.e. toys, books?
Any risks identified?
Comments made by the child about sharing a room. How do they feel about this?

Bedroom (carer/s)

View the room from the doorway.
Is the room adequately furnished, is there any personal belongings in the room that could be seen as offensive for a child?
Is there any difference in provision to the looked after child's bedroom?

If the room is shared with a baby/toddler:

Is it adequately furnished, any broken furniture?
Is the room warm and comfortable?
Is the babies/toddlers bedding clean and in good condition?
Do they have enough space to keep their belongings?
Any risks identified?

Any health and safety issues noted?

Any equipment needs?

Any recommendations made?