Fostering Service

Emergency Duty Team Service & Out of Hours Support to Foster Carers – April 2016

Introduction

This important guidance is provided for foster carers following changes to the Emergency Duty Team Service (EDT) which came into effect from April 4th 2016. These changes follow an EDT service review and affect the structure of delivering EDT statutory responsibilities for social care emergencies outside of office hours:

Monday to Thursday 5pm – 8am, Friday 4.30pm – Monday 8am and Bank Holidays

What is going to change?

The EDT function is being separated into two teams – Adult Services (ASC) and Children Services (CS). The new CS EDT will deal with children’s services and will only be able to respond to emergencies that involve immediate harm child protection and safeguarding concerns.

How does this affect Foster Carers?

The new CS EDT service will be expected to prioritise response and involvement to clear and immediate safeguarding and child protection referrals only. They are therefore unable to provide telephone advice to foster carers or deal with what are considered non-emergency requests.

How do I get support and advice Out of Office Hours?

In the first instance, if foster carers require advice they should always contact the Leeds Foster Carer Association (LFCA) Support Line.

LFCA Support Line contact details:

Tel: 07505 091219  email: support@lfcauk.org

The Fostering Service, the LFCA and the new EDT service have agreed a protocol for supporting foster carers with out of office hour’s queries and concerns. The LFCA support line service will provide:
- A rota of experienced foster carers providing telephone advice and support for foster carer concerns and queries outside of emergency child protection & immediate risk of harm issues
- Advice and signposting for those queries or concerns which would require referral to the CS EDT Service
- Email facility for general queries or concerns
- Additional support during office hours as a general advice line for carers

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**Additional guidance and advice:**

**Emailing CS EDT Service**

It is recognised that foster carers may wish to notify an important placement issue out of hours where previously this would have been a telephone call to EDT e.g. a child missing from placement. Under these circumstances, (and this may advised by the LFCA Support Line for relevant queries), foster carers can notify CS EDT by emailing:

[childrensedt@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:childrensedt@leeds.gov.uk)

Please remember to copy any notification emails to your Supervising Social Worker (SSW) so they have a record of your contact and they can follow this up with you during office hours. This is a notification service only where EDT will log notifications and will only respond if they feel the email warrants clarification or further action.

**Using your Delegated Authority**

Your Delegated Authority (DA) tool document for each child / young person in placement details the decisions you are able to make and under what circumstances. There are no changes to your ability to make decisions via DA, including those needing making out of office hours.

If you need any clarification about your Delegated Authority or feel the DA document for your child / young person requires updating or revision, please discuss this with your SSW.

**Mockingbird Scheme**

Foster Carers who are part of a Mockingbird scheme hub should continue to contact their Hub Carer in the first instance for any queries or support out of office hours. The Hub carer will be able to provide appropriate advice and support as part of their responsibilities to hub satellite carers.