

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Family Rights Group Freedom of Information Questions:

1. Has your local authority published a policy on family and friends care? If so please supply a copy and a web address of its location on your website.

Leicester City Council has a policy of Kinship (Connected Persons) Foster Care. This is published on the Leicester City Council Fostering Website as Appendix C to the Statement of Purpose:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/social-care-health/fostering-and-adoption/fostering/statement-of-purpose-function>

2. What process did you use to develop the policy? How did you consult children and young people, family and friends carers and parents in the drawing up of policies? (As specified in paragraph 4.8 of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities.)

Within the Social care and Safeguarding services there is a dedicated team with responsibility for assessing and supporting Friend and Family carers and they receive the same considerations and support, as needed, as main stream foster carers. There is no specific policy in place so there has not been consultation.

Friend and Family carers have an allocated Supervising Social Worker during the period in which they are being assessed and once approved will then continue to receive this support through regular home visits from the Kinship Foster Care Team.

The supervising social worker will provide practical help and advice as well as emotional support. They can also provide equipment that the carer may need to help them to care for the child. The child will also have a Social Worker, who will visit them regularly and meet with the kinship carers.

3. What is the name, position and contact details of the senior manager who holds overall management responsibility for the family and friends care policy? (As specified in paragraph 4.9 of the Statutory Guidance.)

[Andy Smith, Director, Social Care and Safeguarding.](#)

What steps are you taking to publicise the policy and make it available to family and friends carers and other relevant stakeholder, for example through leaflets and weblinks? (As specified in paragraph 4.3 of the Statutory Guidance.) Please supply copies of any leaflets.

It is expected that Friend and Family carers access our training programme, and join the Leicester City Fostering Association, (independent advice and support from foster carers), and take part in consultations on our service developments.

It is Leicester's intention to implement a Friends and Family Policy as part of the Care Planning development work. This is underway and will report to a Project Board on improving Outcomes for Looked after Children.

5. What procedures are being put in place to regularly update the policy (as specified in paragraph 4.2 of the Statutory Guidance) and ensure that its implementation is monitored and evaluated?

As above.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk**

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

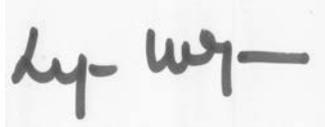
**Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF**

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager