Process to become a family and friends foster carer and special guardian with Surrey County Council

When

When not urgent

Public Law Outline meetings held to address concerns about children. Their care is discussed, and birth families nominate potential family and friends who may offer care if urgent the child becomes Looked After, or to become Special Guardians

Assessment

If child needs immediate move, nominated person is assessed for temporary approval under Reg 24.

Joint assessment meeting held with child's social worker. fostering social worker and person at their home (meeting lasts2 1/2 hours. Usually takes place during office hours)

Placement planning meeting in the first week of child moving to them (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours usually during office hours)

Then a family and friends assessment is conducted.

A fostering /SGO assessment is done over 6-16 weeks, consisting of 6-8 visits (visits last approximately 2 hours, some during office hours).

Following Approval – family and friends

Once approved, family and friends carers are expected to attend:

Child Looked After review after 4 weeks, 3 months and then once every 6 months Personal Education Plan meeting

Health assessment meeting

(Meetings usually take place during office hours, last approx 2 hours)

Following Approval – special guardian

Once order is granted by the court, social worker who carried out the assessment may recommend optional training (available daytime and evenings) to assist them in meeting child's needs

Evening optional support groups specific to Special Guardians take place every month

3 fun days arranged by the fostering service are offered to children living with Special Guardians. These take place during school holidays on weekdays (3 working days)

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