



Children in Care Policy

At Bright Eyes Childcare we believe that all Children in Care should have equitable access to excellent nursery provision and achieve at a similar level to all Cornwall children. We as a community aim to be champions for Children in Care and take a proactive approach to support their success, recognising that we as a nursery setting have a vital role to play in promoting children and young people's social and emotional development.

Our aims to support Children in Care

- Provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children.
- Closing the gap - Bring the educational attainments of our Children in Care in line to those of their peers.
- Making sure that they have access to education appropriate to their age and ability. This includes full access to Birth to Five Matters.
- Identifying our settings' role to promote and support the learning and development of our Children in Care.
- To provide a designated safeguarding lead for Children in Care who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them, liaising with carers and or parents (as appropriate) and social workers on a wide variety of educational and care issues.

All staff, leaders and management are committed to ensuring improved educational life chances for Children in Care by ensuring that the relevant personnel have reasonable support and time to complete tasks and responsibilities. Also, to establish and maintain appropriate reporting and monitoring procedures both within the setting and with other agencies.

The designated person for CIC are to maintain a register of all Children in Care (this includes children both from in and out of Cornwall). This designated person must participate in appropriate current training and ensure all statutory documents are kept up to date.

This record should include:

- The contact person in the relevant Children in Care Education Support Service (CiCESS).
- Status i.e. type of care. See sheet at end of policy for definitions of care orders
- Type of Placement e.g. foster, respite, residential, adoptive.
- Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number
- Daily contact and telephone numbers of those who need to be contacted in an emergency or for any other concerns.
- Share Child Protection / disability information if appropriate (if not appropriate to share, indicate the confidential nature of the information)
- Relevant health information
- Baseline information and any other relevant assessments or information.

Whole setting approach:

There are four guiding principles that shape our practice in our setting.

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments, with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and carers.



• Importance of **Learning and Development**. Children develop and learn at different rates.
The EYFS covers the education and care of all children in Early Years provision, including children with SEN.
'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage DFE Sept 2021'

- The setting celebrates the achievements of Children in Care.
- Staff should have high expectations of the child, encouraging achievement and ambition
- The child will need to have a special, trusted key person in the setting who is able to take time to listen to them and have access to support and counselling if required.
- For young Children in Care, there should be clarity in relation to who is and is not allowed to collect the child from the setting.
- All staff within the setting are made aware of the needs of Children in Care and actively promote their best interests.
- Adults in the setting will need to be sensitive to the young person's wishes over what is known and by whom regarding their care status.
- Effective assessment, recording and reporting practices are established.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Children in Care
- The designated person ensures that positive messages about behaviour and achievement are shared within the setting and between setting, carers and outside agencies and that high educational expectations are maintained.
- Staff work in partnership with carers and agencies and parents (where appropriate).
- Support carers to value educational achievement and improve attendance.
- Ensure that the child is settled and support in making friendships.
- Staff are aware that being or becoming 'in Care' has a major impact on children's lives and that when considering children's learning and or behaviour, due consideration will be given.
- Staff are aware of a variety of issues that may undermine the young person's ability to engage in the learning process including feelings of loss, rejection, isolation, confusion, and low self-esteem.
- Staff need to be aware of possible unresolved feelings the young person may have about their own families and siblings, in addition to insecurity over their current homes and carers.
- Ensure communication between multiple agencies is professional and in a timely manner.

Terms and meanings:

Section 20 - To accommodate children who are unable to live with their parents. this parental responsibility stays with the parents but the child is 'accommodated' by Cornwall.

Interim care order -This is an Order that is made at the first hearing after Care Proceedings have been issued. This Order can last for up to 8 weeks and can be renewed every 4 weeks after that. The Order can only be granted if the Court feels there is good reason to believe that a child may be at serious risk of harm.

When Social Services apply for an Interim Care Order, they must have prepared an Interim Care Plan which sets out where the child should live until the final hearing. This will include contact arrangements between the parent and the child. The Interim Care Order, like a Care Order grants Cornwall Parental Responsibility which means they can make decisions about the child's living arrangements and do not need the parent's permission to do so.

Care order

This is an order that places the child in the care of Cornwall and gives it parental responsibility. This does not mean the parents lose



parental responsibility, but it does mean Cornwall can override their wishes if it believes this would be best for your child. However, it must have consulted parents first. For this order to be made, the child must be under 17 years old.

A care order means that Cornwall must provide a place for the child to live (for example with relatives or foster carers) and is responsible for the child's 'maintenance' (making sure they have money to live on). Occasionally the child remains at home with parents under a care order, but Cornwall still makes all decisions and can remove the child at any time if they are concerned about the care the child is receiving. If Cornwall is granted a care order, its plans for the child will be set out in the care plan filed at court. This plan must be reviewed regularly and parents should be consulted about this. A full care order can remain in force until the child is 18 years old.

Supervision order

This means parents have parental responsibility and remain responsible for their child's care, but Cornwall has the power to 'supervise' how they care for your child. A supervision order lasts up to one year, but the council can ask the court for an extension for up to two more years.

Childcare arrangement order

This order would mean that the child would live with someone else, such as a member of the family, without Cornwall being involved. It would give that person parental responsibility for the period of the order.

Special guardianship orders

This court order places a child with someone who is not their parent in a longer-term arrangement. It is more permanent than a residence order because a parent cannot apply to 'revoke' (end) the order without the court's permission. The court can give this permission only where the circumstances have changed significantly since the order was made. However, a special guardianship order (SGO) does not break the legal relationship between a parent and child.

If an SGO is made for the child, the special guardian will gain parental responsibility for him or her. Parents will still have parental responsibility as well, but the special guardian has the right to override their wishes if they cannot agree.

Placement order

In rare cases Cornwall may consider that the child should be placed for adoption. Where adoption is planned, Cornwall will probably apply for a 'placement order' at the final hearing. This order allows Cornwall to place the child with prospective adopters even if parents don't consent to this.

Reviewed 26th September 2023

Signed By: Nursery Manager