



Frequency and Guidance for Child in Need (CIN) Visits

| TYPE OF STATUTORY VISIT | FREQUENCY |
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| Child in Need | <p>At least once every 20 working days (from and including the day of the visit).</p> <p>Or more frequently if indicated in the Child in Need Plan and in line with need or risk.</p> |

GUIDANCE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS FOR CHILD IN NEED STATUTORY VISITS:

The purpose of Child in Need visits is to support parents and children with those identified areas that cause the child/ren to be in need of statutory services, to review progress, the intervention support offered, and the implementation of the plan and to understand the impact of the plan. These visits can be announced and unannounced, but the nature of these visits should be explained to the parent and child/ren, at the start of the Child in Need process.

A CHILD IN NEED VISIT IS WHEN THE CHILD HAS BEEN SEEN WHERE THEY LIVE. IF PARENTS SHARE RESPONSIBILITY, THE CHILD/REN SHOULD BE SEEN IN BOTH HOMES.

- **Assess the safety, suitability, and stability of the home environment** - the standard of care in the home should be observed and recorded. The child's environment is to be assessed according to the issues of concern, for example domestic abuse, neglect, drug/ alcohol. Remember to consider pets and any risks associated with them.
- **See family/ wider network in the home** - to understand the child's environment, it is important to know who lives in the household and what part they play in the child's life. Record details of all people present; this includes people who live in the house as well as any visitors who are present at the time of your visit. You should ask the visitors for their name and relationship to the family.
- **Assess and observe how the child/ren interact** with parents/carers and family members.

- **Discussions to be held with parents/carers and the child in relation to the Child in Need Plan** - explore and address any issues that have arisen within Child in Need Reviews, as well as the progress of the support / interventions and the impact on the child/ren.
- When completing **direct work** during a visit (depending on the age and ability of the child/ren) this is to be used to help inform their Child in Need Plan and understand their lived and living experiences and impact of the plan. Remember to ensure direct work is recorded on ICS.
- If the child who you have come to see is not at home, ask about their exact whereabouts and who they are with.
- If you do not manage to see the child at home during your visit, arrange to see the child at home within statutory timescales on a different occasion. If you are, however, concerned about the child's safety or well-being on that day, ensure that you make contact with the child on the same day of your visit – this (depending on the level of your concerns) may be a telephone/video call, pre-arranged later home visit.
- The child/ren to be seen in different settings as well as at home, for example in school or when they are visiting family members. Where possible we should work around children not missing lessons, especially where there are concerns about attendance.
- Where a child is seen in school this should only be recorded as a child in need visit if the home has also been seen that day.
- Child in Need planning and reviewing is a multi-agency process and therefore it is good practice to involve partner agencies in home visits to help them understand what life is like at home for the child, helping keep the child at the centre of the planning and reviewing process.

WITHIN CHILD IN NEED VISITS:

- **Challenge any safeguarding concerns and speak to your Team Manager immediately if you have any worries.**
- **See every child's bedroom and sleeping arrangements** (to include all children if there is a sibling group).
- **See and talk to the child on their own to help understand the impact of the plan and the child's lived and living experiences** (all children if in a sibling group to be spoken to individually in line with the child's ages and stages of development). The child must be given the opportunity to say how they are feeling and for the Social Worker to assess and report on the safety of the child, and other matters relevant to their living environment. If a child is too young to provide their views or is unable to provide their views through disability, observations to be made regarding their presentation, play, and interaction with family members.
- Assess health, welfare, religious, cultural, social, and educational needs – are they being met?
- If it has not been possible to see the child on their own or see their bedroom, the rationale for this must be recorded. If the parents/carers refuse to allow the child to be spoken with alone, or refuse access to the child's bedroom, management advice should be sought immediately as you may, depending on the complexity of the case and the level of risk, need to consider senior management/ legal advice about next steps.