



INDEPENDENT VISITORS

Foster carers may care for a child or young person who has an Independent Visitor.

The Local Authority has a duty to appoint an Independent Visitor for a young person who has very limited contact with his or her own family. For this reason, prior to a young person's review, the need for an Independent Visitor should be talked about with the young person, especially if their family has not visited them during the preceding 12 months.

The Independent Visitor is a person who is checked and approved by Children and Young People's Service who as to be independent of the Local Authority, so the Council cannot employ them nor can they be a foster carer.

An Independent Visitor can be an extra person for the child or young person, similar to an aunt, uncle, grandparent or older sister or brother. Although young people share the foster carers relatives and hopefully make their own friends, it is important they have someone 'extra' to listen to them, to take them out and to share things with.

The Independent Visitor will visit the young person and offer additional support. They should be someone the young person can confide in and this can feel uncomfortable for the foster carer at times.

We hope that foster carers will understand the need for Independent Visitors and will support this valuable relationship.