

Looked After Children NMS 16.1 – 16.3

We are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive quality environment for all children and families.

Definition and legal framework

The description 'looked after' is generally used to describe a child who is looked after by the local authority. This includes children who are subject to a care order or temporarily classed as looked after on a planned basis for short breaks or respite care. Most looked after children will be cared for by foster carers with a small minority in children's homes, looked after by family members or even placed back within the family home. The term 'looked after child' denotes a child's current legal status. We never use this term to categorise a child as standing out from others or refer to a child using acronyms such as LAC.

The legal framework for this policy is underpinned by or supported through:

- Childcare Act 2006
- Children Act (1989)
- Adoption & Children Act (2002)
- Children & Young Person Act (2002)
- Children and Families Act (2014)
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act (2017).

Our policy

We treat each child as an individual. We recognise that children and young people should be able to get the most out of the activities and opportunities we are able to offer. We will discuss with the child's carer, and social worker where applicable, whether the child requires any additional support or encouragement to attend any of our provisions for example, open access play, after school club or youth club and to discuss whether the child or young person is ready to be able to cope with further separation, a new environment and new expectations made upon them.

We are aware that there a number of reasons why a child may go into care and these reasons may or may not include traumatic experiences or abuse. The staff are trained in safeguarding and have completed prevent training and have a good knowledge and understanding of our safeguarding policy and procedures. Where possible, we will try to source additional training where required. Staff and sessional workers are supported by management at all times and we have an open door policy if they need to discuss any sensitive issues regarding the child.

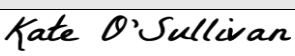
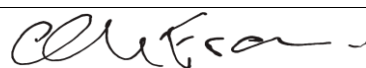
Where necessary we will adapt activities to meet individual needs, age and ability and we will communicate with foster carer, social services or other agencies if required. We will request information as to the contact arrangements between the child/young person and their birth parents and for example, seek advice from RCT Play re: the rules around open access play so we have a clear understanding of who is responsible for the child once the child leaves the setting. **Key contact details will be required from the carer/social worker and key contact details for staff are outlined in our safeguarding policy and procedure.**

Private Fostering

Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote their welfare.

A privately fostered child is a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for and provided with accommodation etc. for more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue by someone other than the parents, a person who is not the parent but who has parental responsibility, a close relative or local authority. It is a statutory duty for us to inform the local authority where we are made aware of a child who may be subject to private fostering arrangements. We will do this by contacting the local authority children's social care team.

This policy was adopted on 13.10.2025 and will be reviewed on or before 13.10.2026

Name and Position	Signed	Date
Kate O'Sullivan Community Association Manager		13.10.2025
Olive Frances Vice Chair of Trustees		13.10.2025

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