

Sutton Social Services

1. Health and Safety Checklist

Name of Carer(s):

Date:

Approved foster homes (including holiday homes, caravans, barges, etc.) need to be safe for children and young people to live in. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure, as far as possible, that the foster home fulfils safety standards. This checklist should be completed by the Supervising Social Worker/Assessing Social Worker and carers/applicants.

Part 1: General household conditions (for Supervising Social Worker only)

- Is the accommodation suitable for the number of children/young people living, or proposed to live, in it? (Note, children/young people with disabilities may need more space) **Yes / No**
- Is there sufficient space for children to pursue their homework, to engage in quiet activities on their own, as well as play boisterously and for contact to be facilitated? **Yes / No**
- Do all rooms have an opening window? **Yes / No**
- Are all rooms maintained at a reasonable temperature? **Yes / No**
- Can children eat in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere? **Yes / No**
- What range of toys/play/entertainment is there available in the household for fostered children?
- Are there any rooms in (e.g. bathrooms/lavatories) or around (e.g. sheds) the house that children could unsafely lock themselves into?
- What action does the carer take to ensure that no household and/or garden plants may present a danger to children?

Part 2: General safety factors (indoors)

- Are accessible power points fitted with child resistant safety covers? **Yes / No**
 - Are fireguards used where appropriate? **Yes / No / NA**
 - Is there an easily accessible fire extinguisher and fire blanket? (NB: the fire extinguisher should be within the date stamp.) **Yes / No**
 - Are there any trailing wires that pose a potential hazard? **Yes / No**
 - When was the last time your electrical wiring was checked? **Date:**
 - Does the applicant/carer consider that their electrical equipment is in good repair? (Applicant/carer to complete) **Yes / No**
 - What type of heating?
 - Where is the boiler located?
 - Is the gas boiler serviced annually? **Yes / No Date:**
 - Is a carbon monoxide detector installed? **Yes/ No**
 - If in use, are chimneys and flues swept annually? **Yes / No**
 - Are all large areas of glass fitted with safety glass? **Yes / No**
 - Are there any loose or uneven floor coverings? **Yes / No**
 - Is the carer/applicant committed to ensuring that any new furniture conforms to the British Standards? **Yes / No**
 - Do upstairs windows have safety catches/locks? **Yes / No**
 - Do downstairs windows have safety catches/locks? **Yes / No**
 - Are all windows and door keys easily available in the event of a fire? **Yes / No**
 - Is there an accessible First Aid box for the home and car? Contents to be seen by Supervising Social Worker/Assessing Social Worker **Yes / No**
 - Are household tools kept securely? **Yes / No**
 - Are alcohol, cigarettes, matches and lighters kept? **Yes / No**
 - Are any firearms, knives, swords, etc. kept in the home? **Yes / No**
Where?
 - Is there a license for the firearm? **Yes / No**
 - Has a risk assessment been completed? **Yes / No**
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Pets

Are there any pets in the household? **Yes / No**

If Yes, how many?

Please list type of pet, breed, and name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If pet is a dog, is it on a dangerous breed list? **Yes / No**

Where do they sleep?

Where are pets fed?

Where are the litter trays kept?

What arrangements are there for cleaning bowls and bedding?

What arrangements are there for exercise and control?

Are the animals registered with a vet? **Yes / No**

Do the animals have routine vaccinations and preventative treatment? **Yes / No**

Are there any issues related to hygiene (pet odour, hair/dander, feces)? **Yes / No**

Are there known aggressive incidents/traits? **Yes / No**

How do the pets respond/behave with children?

Do the type or number of pets present a potential risk to foster children? **Yes / No**

Kitchen

Cooker: Gas ☐ Electric ☐ Dual Fuel ☐ Other ☐

How old is it?

Is it clean and in good repair? **Yes / No**

Are children appropriately supervised in the kitchen? **Yes / No**

Food Storage

If there is a chest freezer is it securely locked? **Yes / No / NA**

General

What are the arrangements for the storage of household cleaners and chemicals?

What are the arrangements for the storage of knives and other utensils?

Are kitchen work surfaces and flooring undamaged and kept clean? **Yes / No**

General Comments

Living Area

What are the arrangements for keeping entertainment equipment (TV, DVD player, and other equipment) secure and out of reach of young children?

Stairs

Is there adequate artificial/natural light to illuminate any steps **Yes / No**

Are banisters filled in or have a maximum gap between rails/openings of 4 inches? **Yes / No**
(The relevance depends on the age of the child being placed.)

Toilets and Bathrooms

Can medicines, shampoos, cosmetics, razors be locked away, or put in suitable places out of reach? **Yes / No**

Are the fittings in the bathroom in a reasonable state of cleanliness? **Yes / No**

Are lights/electric fires controlled by a pull cord or is the switch outside the door? **Yes / No**

Bedrooms

How many bedrooms are there?

What are the current sleeping arrangements?

(Note British Standard Regulations, top bunks are not suitable for children under 6).

Has a bedroom risk assessment been completed for same-sex sharing? **Yes / No**

Does the space in the foster home reflect the ages and number of the children in the carer's approval? As a rule of thumb, bedrooms should be big enough to have a bed, chest of drawers and wardrobe. There should be space within the home for children to pursue their homework.

Yes / No

Are there any cords attached to blinds or curtains that could present a safety hazard to children?

Yes / No

Fire Safety

Is there a smoke detector installed on each floor of the house? **Yes / No**

Is it in good working order (to test batteries/press button)? **Yes / No**

Is there a fire plan in place that has been discussed with the child/ren? **Yes / No**

Garden

Are garden/DIY equipment/chemicals locked away, out of sight and reach?**Yes / No**

Are garden fences and gates secure and in good condition?**Yes / No**

Are swings, slides etc. securely fixed and kept in good condition?**Yes / No**

Do trampolines have a safety net?..... **Yes/ No**

Are garage and sheds locked?**Yes / No**

Are greenhouses, ponds, water tanks, pools, etc. covered or fenced off?**Yes / No**

Are there any unsecured drain hatches?**Yes / No**

Are sandpits hygienic and covered when not in use?**Yes / No**

Equipment

Does carer have appropriate equipment for transport/security of small children i.e. high chair, play pen, car seat, buggies?**Yes / No**

Does this equipment conform to British Safety Standards?**Yes / No**

Are cycles, skateboards, roller blades and such items stored in a safe place?**Yes / No**

Do children have suitable helmets and appropriate safety padding? **Yes / No**

Is the helmet in a safe condition (not cracked)? **Yes / No**

Task	By Whom	Date Completed
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Supervising Social Worker.....Date.....