

## NFS – Out of office hours placements

- In an emergency out of hours, foster carers can have a child placed with them by Norfolk County Council Children's Services outside of their approval terms for up to working 6 days. (*Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning Placement and Case Review, 3.85*).
- The Norfolk Fostering Service duty desk will maintain and update a list of foster carers able to consider placements of children out of office hours.
- Supervising social worker's will keep the out of hours field updated in the foster carer database for each foster carer. Those foster carers not shown as available for out of hours will not be approached by the duty desk to be included on the out of hours list, while carers who are shown as available may be; therefore regular and reliable updating of this information by the supervising social worker is vital.
- Foster Carers should **never** contact the Placement Team or the Duty Desk to request being added to the out of hours list, this conversation should always take place directly with the foster carers supervising social worker.
- All carers on the out of hours vacancy list must be able to accommodate a child for up to **6 working days after** the placement has been made and the child **must** have their own room, unless they are sharing with a sibling.
- Foster carers will be paid £25 per week if they receive a call or calls, regardless of whether they accommodate a child or not.
- The duty desk will send an updated list of carers through to the Placement Team each Friday morning, who in turn will pass this to our colleagues in the Emergency Duty Team (EDT).
- Foster Carers who have yet to have a first review following their registration with NFS cannot be available for emergency placements out of hours without the approval of the fostering team manager – carers with less than 12 months experience of fostering will not normally be placed on the out of hours list because of the nature of emergency placements which are made in circumstances where there is little opportunity to share information about the child and make plans for their care.