

Children who will be discussed at a Permanence Panel

Information for foster carers



Department of Community Child Health

The social worker for the child you are fostering has requested that a health assessment be carried out as part of the permanency process. Information gathered in this assessment will help inform the permanency panel of the child's current and possible future needs. The child's social worker will have gained appropriate consent for the health assessment to be done before the appointment is arranged.

Who will see the child?

The child will be seen by a Community Paediatrician who provides medical advice to the permanency panel.

Should I attend with the child?

Yes please. As the child's main carer, the information you can provide is an essential part of the assessment.

Do I need to bring any information or documents?

It is really helpful if you bring the child's health record, copies of any hospital correspondence or appointment letters and a list of any medications the child is prescribed on a routine basis. It is also helpful to have names of any involved health professionals, e.g. speech therapist.

What happens at the assessment?

The Community Paediatrician will ask you questions about the child and assess the child's physical health, emotional wellbeing and developmental progress.

How long will the appointment last?

The health assessment typically takes about an hour to complete.

Where will the assessment take place?

The assessment will usually take place in health premises in the local authority with responsibility for the child. This allows the child to be seen by the Community Paediatrician who provides medical advice to the local panel which will be discussing the permanency plans for the child.

What if it is difficult for me to travel to the appointment?

If transport issues make it difficult for you to bring the child to the appointment, please contact the child's social worker so they can help facilitate your attendance.

Do I get a copy of the report?

The main recipient of the health assessment for permanency report is the child's social worker. The report will reflect on all available health information relating to the child and their birth family and is not solely based on the child's health assessment. The Community Paediatrician who sees the child will decide in each individual case who should receive a copy of the report. As the child's foster carer, you will have all relevant health and development information shared with you in some form.

Keeping your appointment

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your child's appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

Public transport and travel information

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on **0131 555 6363** or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Patient Transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need. Telephone **0300 123 1236** (calls charged at local rate) up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI number available which you can find on your appointment letter. Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use text relay: **18001-0300 123 1236** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone 0800 389 1333 (Freephone 24 hr answer service).