

WOKING FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE

Guidelines for Referrers

All correspondence should be sent to the Centre Co-ordinator, preferably by email to enquiries@wokingfamilycontactcentre.org.uk, or by post to:

Woking Family Contact Centre
Woking United Reformed Church
White Rose Lane
Woking
GU22 7HA

Our Contact Centre is based at Woking United Reformed Church and opens on the first and third Saturdays of the month, between 2pm-4pm.

Please note that our Contact Centre offers supported contact only. Supported contact takes place in a variety of neutral community venues where there are facilities to enable children to develop and maintain positive relationships with non-resident parents and other family members. Supported Contact Centres are suitable for families when no significant risk to the child or those around the child has been identified.

The basic elements of supported contact are:

- Impartiality.
 - Staff and volunteers are available for assistance but there is no close observation, monitoring or evaluation of individual contacts/conversations.
 - Several families are usually together in one or a number of rooms.
 - Encouragement for families to develop mutual trust and consider more satisfactory family venues.
 - Apart from attendance dates and times, no detailed report will be made to a referrer, CAFCASS, a party's solicitor or Court, unless there is a risk of harm to the child, parent or Centre worker.
 - An acknowledgement that it be viewed as a temporary arrangement to be reviewed after an agreed period of time.
1. Please do not refer a client without contacting the Contact Centre Co-ordinator first to check availability of space and time.
 2. A completed referral form should be received by the Centre Co-ordinator one week in advance of the date which your client would like contact to commence. Where a Centre has a waiting list, a completed referral form should still be sent, the Centre will then notify you when a place becomes available. In every case the resident and non-resident parents will be invited, at separate times, to a pre-visit at the Centre to explain how the Centre works and to better understand the family background. Only after that visit will the Centre invite the family to attend sessions.
 3. Only people named on the referral form will be allowed admittance to the Contact Centre. This may be varied by written agreement by both parties.
 4. Parents are responsible for their children at all times whilst they are at the Contact Centre.
 5. Please ensure that both parents have read and understood the Contact Centre's information leaflet in advance of contact starting (you can find this on our website).
 6. To try and maintain a friendly, impartial and confidential environment, we would request that you do not at any time ask to see your clients on our premises without prior agreement.

7. Only dates and times of a family's attendance will be disclosed unless it is felt that anyone using the Centre or a volunteer or member of staff is at risk of harm. In the unlikely event of it becoming necessary to quote a Co-ordinator / Centre Manager in any report, due to a Centre user, volunteer or member of staff being at risk of harm, the form of words used should be checked and agreed with that person concerned beforehand.
8. Contact Centres providing Supported Contact will not knowingly accept a referral when somebody involved has been convicted of any offence relating to a) physical or b) sexual abuse of any child, unless there are exceptional circumstances and they have sought appropriate professional advice
9. The Contact Centre reserves the right to reduce or terminate contact if it is felt to be in the best interest of the child.
10. Parents should be informed that because the welfare of the child is paramount, there might be times when contact cannot take place if the child is too upset even if there is a contact order.
11. Referrers should make arrangements for the provision of an interpreter where English is not the first language of the family involved and problems may arise with communication.
12. The Centre should be viewed as a temporary facility to help establish contact. The Child Contact Centre will be asking for your assistance to review the family's progress after six months.
13. Please notify the Contact Centre Co-ordinator if the arrangements for contact are going to change or if contact is going to cease.

This Centre is a Member of the National Association of Child Contact Centres and operates in accordance with its National Standards for Child Contact Centres. We have working policies on the following:

- Safeguarding & Child protection
- Complaints
- Confidentiality
- Diversity
- Domestic Abuse & Coercion
- Equal Opportunities & Diversity
- Health & Safety
- DBS disclosures
- Volunteers
- Recruitment
- Training
- Data Protection and Information Security
- Whistleblowing

All these policies are available to view at the Centre or by request. COVID related Guidance is on the website