



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Childminding, Fostering and Caring Policy

PRE-POL-007



Revision and Signoff Sheet

Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Comments

Reviewers

Name	Version Approved	Position	Organisation	Date

Distribution

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1 What is our offer?

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's (WYFRS) Safe and Well programme is available to most people living in West Yorkshire who are at risk of fire within their home. This can include people who are working within the home such as childminders, foster carers and those involved in adult caring.

Following a short initial assessment to determine the level of risk, people requesting a visit will either receive written advice via email or post, the chance to complete an online education package, or will be offered a home visit from an operational crew or fire prevention officer.

During this visit, any fire risks observed within the home will be identified and interventions such as additional smoke detection may be fitted, and fire safety advice given.

Following the delivery of our services, we do not provide written confirmation of our Safe and Well visit for any third parties such as insurance companies, landlords or local authorities. In some cases, we may however provide an individual fire risk report to appropriate partners where the fire risks identified are so significant that we believe the individual/s within the home are at severe risk of fire.

2 Fire risk assessments

If the person requesting a visit is a childminder, foster carer or is employing a carer within the home, they are usually required by the local authority (and sometimes insurance providers) to carry out a health and safety assessment which should include a fire risk assessment. They are not normally required to submit any proof to the local authority, or Ofsted, that they have carried out a fire risk assessment, but may be asked to confirm they have completed one and taken appropriate remedial action.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires childminders, foster carers and others employing workers within the property to take a risk-based approach to fire prevention within the home. A Fire Safety Risk Assessment Form suitable for small premises can be found under Safety Advice/Workplaces on the WYFRS website. Fire risk assessments should be carried out, **recorded** and any findings **acted on**.

Some private fostering and insurance companies may ask for copies of any fire risk assessment carried out. If this is the case, and their property is large or has a complex layout, the person may need to approach a specialist fire risk assessor; WYFRS is not able to complete the fire risk assessment for them but can support them with advice on dealing with fire safety issues (Contact the fire protection team on 0113 3875738).