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**Information for foster carers**

Welcome to Treehouse Practice. We are a specialised multi-disciplinary team for young people who have experienced trauma and adversity in their lives, and the network of adults that support the young person. Most of the young people that we see are in either foster or residential care and have had disruptions to relationships in their lives.

Treehouse Practice takes a relationship-based approach to assessment and intervention. This means that whilst it will be the young person’s name on the referral form, birth parents, foster carers and other key adults in the young person’s life will also be central to the process. We will explain this process to you when we meet with you and answer any questions you might have.

Before we start the process, we want to also let you know what to expect when we meet with you.

* Treehouse Practice will meet with foster carers for interviews either in person or on line to focus on understanding the child’s development, strengths and needs.
* Many assessment and therapy sessions at Treehouse Practice are recorded so that we can look at these as a team and so that we can use external coders who are ‘blind’ to the situation to obtain objective views. The recorded aspects of the assessment are the Meaning of the Child Interview (with adults) and the Marshack Interaction Method assessment (with young person and adults together). For babies and toddlers, there is also a joint adult/ child recording, called the Infant or Toddler Care Index.
* There are also recorded assessment elements for the young person, including the Child Attachment and Play Assessment, the School Age Assessment of Attachment, the Transition to Adult Attachment Interview. The choice of this is dependent on the young person’s age
* Adults will be asked about their own experiences of being cared for and of providing care themselves.
* Treehouse Practice has relationships with external attachment coders and information will be shared with these professionals, with whom Treehouse Practice has contracts and agreements around professional standards, confidentiality and data sharing.

Treehouse Practice require signed consent forms from the young person’s social worker, parent and foster carers so that they are fully informed of these processes and have considered their willingness to take part.

Treehouse Practice further recognises that many families will have ongoing involvement with a legal/ court process. Reports produced by Treehouse Practice are written for therapeutic purposes, and not for court proceedings. Treehouse Practice recognises that reports will be used for this purpose from time to time, however. If this is the case, it is recommended that a consultation be arranged with the authors of the report to look at how best to protect the interest of the young person, their parents and foster carers/ residential team and how best to have the therapeutic information understood by those involved in the legal proceedings.

As the young person’s foster carer I have read and understood this information and I consent to the assessment proceeding on this basis.

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Name of child referred to Treehouse Practice

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Signature of foster carer

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Foster carer’s printed name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date