

Foster carers charter

Our roles and commitment to each other

The Fostering Service role:

The Fostering Service aims to provide stable and first-rate foster care for children who are valued, supported and encouraged to grow and develop as individuals.

To achieve this aim, we recruit, train and approve foster carers and deliver ongoing support to them, in order to give them the skills and confidence they need to develop meaningful relationships with the children and young people they care for and provide stable and loving homes while they are part of the foster family.

The Foster Carer's role:

Foster carers are at the heart of the foster care service.

We are assessed, trained and supported to look after children and young people by developing meaningful relationships in a family environment, providing them with stability, care, love and an opportunity to grow and develop to reach their potential.

Fostering Service and foster carers commitment to each other:

1. Working in equal partnership
2. Respect for the child and each other as valued members of the team around the child
3. Information
4. Clarity and timely updates about decisions and plans
5. Support each other
6. Ongoing learning and development
7. Fair treatment
8. Communication and consultation.



A great place to live and work.

What the fostering service and foster carers can expect from each other:

1) Working in partnership

We will recognise each other's skills and expertise and demonstrate a high standard of care and conduct to ensure we make the biggest difference to the everyday lives of children in care.

We will:

- Demonstrate our expertise and make use of our skills to the best of our ability
- Recognise each other's knowledge and understanding of each child's lived experience
- Plan, prepare for and attend all meetings that affect the child looked after
- Through our work with children we will support them to have a positive experience of family life
- Work with the agencies involved with the child such as school, health and religious establishments
- Ensure that we meet the standards set out in Fostering Regulations and guidance and follow departmental policies and procedures
- Treat each other without discrimination and respect each other as colleagues
- Respect confidentiality.

2) Respect for the child

Every child and young person should be respected as an individual and be supported in meeting their needs and achieving their aspirations and potential.

We will:

- Develop a meaningful relationship with the child, understand their needs, support their growth and be an advocate and champion for them
- Respect and promote a child's religious, linguistic and cultural heritage
- Ensure the protection and care of the child meets the National Minimum Standards
- Ensure the child has the right to make decisions regarding their own lives, as appropriate to their age and understanding.

3) Information

We believe that open and honest dialogue is the key to a good relationship and we will aim to build a meaningful and collaborative relationship with each other.



We will:

- Provide each other with all the information needed in order to ensure the child is safely cared for even when emergencies occur
- Ensure that a placement plan is drawn up together and adhered to
- We will ensure any financial guidance is clear and adhered to
- If any difficulties arise these will be discussed at the soonest opportunity.

4) Clarity about decisions

We recognise that in order for children to live a full family life, foster carers must be able to make decisions regarding the children they foster.

We will:

- Work together to ensure that wherever possible, foster carers can and do make everyday decisions that mean that fostered children are not treated differently to their peers and feel part of the family
- Work together to ensure there is clarity about decisions that cannot be made by the foster carers so that everyone understands who is responsible for what.

5) Support

We recognise that fostering is an isolating and challenging task and appropriate and timely support makes all the difference to the fostering family and to the child in care.

We will:

- Respond positively to requests for additional support
- Commit to and utilise regular supervision provided
- Provide honest and open feedback
- Ensure the fostering allowance and associated expenses are paid, utilised and claimed for appropriately and in a timely manner.

6) Learning and Development

We will access learning and development opportunities. This will ensure we have the skills and knowledge we need and allow us to develop our practice in order that we can help transform the lives of children in care.

We will:

- Attend relevant training opportunities in order to develop our skills and knowledge of fostering issues



- Support each other to enable meaningful relationships with children in care to develop.

7) Fair treatment

We recognise that everyone has a right to be treated fairly, no matter what the circumstances.

We will:

- Ensure openness in our discussions and communications with you
- Ensure we treat each other with respect and keep each other informed on important issues/concerns/events
- Ensure the framework for dealing with allegations is adhered to in agreed timescales.

8) Communication and consultation

We believe that open and honest dialogue is the key to a good relationship.

We will:

- Ensure that we consult with you in a meaningful way and build good working relationships
- Support children in care to do the same
- Utilise consultation opportunities in order to inform the development of the service.

Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services

Cllr Steve Dixon
Lead Member

