

The Role and Responsibilities of Foster Carers

November 2017

The overall task

To be responsible for the day to day care in one's own home of a child or children placed by Nottinghamshire County Council's Children, Families and Cultural Services and to work with the department and partner agencies (e.g. health, education) who are involved in helping children fulfil their potential.

Specific tasks

1. Caring for children

- to provide a good standard of child care (emotional, physical health, safety) aimed at encouraging the full potential of each child
- to recognise the particular needs of children separated from their families
- to take part in carrying out the child care plan which will include specific tasks, such as encouraging family and friends who are important to the child to have purposeful contact
- to supervise contact arrangements (unless it is unsafe for them to do so or they are unable to) as it is in the best interests of the child to see their

foster carer and family members working together

- to **transport children to contact**, in the first instance we would like this to be the foster carer unless alternative arrangements have been agreed prior to placing the child
- to promote the healthy growth and development of the child or children, with particular emphasis on health and educational achievement
- to ensure that children in your care are helped to understand and value their racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and sexual identity
- to help children's understanding of their life history by saving keepsakes, mementos and photographs of the child

- to enable children and young people who are moving on from their home to do so in a positive way. Be this to birth parents, adopters or another foster carer.

2. Providing a safe and caring environment

- to ensure that children are kept safe from harm and abuse and that they are taught how to keep themselves safe and how to get help if necessary
- to provide an atmosphere of acceptance, respect and warmth which enables children to feel safe in their attachments to the foster family
- to set appropriate boundaries and manage behaviour without physical or inappropriate discipline
- to act as advocate for each child, and help them express their views and opinions
- to encourage children in your care to use the Independent Visitor and/or Advocacy Service as appropriate.



3. Working as part of a team

- to work alongside the supervising social worker in considering the impact of fostering on you and your family and the development of your skills in fostering
- to work alongside other professional people within the department's policy and procedures
- to attend and actively take part in all reviews, planning meetings, case conferences, and court hearings as required
- to keep a written log of 'significant' events in the placement and to contribute to reports
- to communicate openly and effectively with the department and to deal responsibly with confidential information.

4. Own development

- to attend appropriate required training opportunities and recognise the benefit of continued training
- to use support and supervision to develop your role
- to utilise personal development plans and look at best ways of reaching your goals
- to aim to develop good reflective practice

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- to complete the Training, Support and Development Standard for Foster Carers workbook within the first year of approval
- to undertake an annual review of your learning and development plan with your supervising social worker, to ascertain what learning and development requirements are needed for the forthcoming year. You are required to evidence 20 hours learning and development per annum, this can be achieved through formal courses, E-Learning courses or home study using books, videos or television programmes, evidenced by the use of your carer's learning log.

5. Delegated Authority

- to attend planning meetings and reviews and discuss the quality of a young person's everyday life
- ensure you are given a written, dated record as to the decision, consents and responsibilities that are delegated to you
- make as many everyday decisions as possible, where it is consistent with the young person's care plan to do so.

N.B. Please read 'child' as 'child or young person' which has been omitted to avoid unnecessary repetition.