



## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

### FOSTER CARE AGREEMENT

This agreement is to meet the provisions of the 2002 Foster Care Standards and Regulations and sets out the responsibilities and obligations of both Leicestershire County Council Children & Young People's Service and Foster Carer(s) who are approved by the Department.

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Children & Young People's Service (hereafter known as the Department) UNDERTAKE TO:**

- 1a) Maintain with carers, a fostering standard that confirms to statutory regulations and procedural guidance.
  - b) Provide written information to foster carers in respect of policies, allowances and decisions relating to any placement.
  - c) Provide defined social work support to the foster carers in order to promote the welfare of children in their care and good fostering practice.
  - d) Provide information about level of payments and allowance that will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.
  - e) Pay allowances promptly with a full explanation about the composition of the payment.
  - f) Loan equipment to foster carers to ensure children have adequate furniture, bedding and necessary safety equipment, depending on the age and ability of child.
  - g) Review with foster carers, their skills and knowledge and to promote their development through a variety of means including formal training in line with training support and development standard
  - h) Offer regular supervisory sessions to foster carers to help them develop their skills and to aid their development as carers.
  - i) Monitor all placement endings, to ensure aims of the placement have been met.
  - j) Offer regular visits to each foster home by a supervising social worker (The level of visits will be determined at the foster care review). To make at least one unannounced visit each year.
- 2a) To review, at least annually and when there are other significant changes in the foster carer's circumstances, whether the foster carers and the household continue to be suitable to be approved.

The review will include a visit to the foster carer's home and take into account the views of relevant people involved with the placements which have been made during the review period. This will include carer's views of the service they receive.

- b) Where there are significant changes, the review report will be considered by the Department's Fostering Panel.
- c) Where on review the Department is no longer satisfied that the foster carer and her/his household are suitable, they shall terminate the approval from a date to be specified to the foster carers
3. Provide foster carers with Placement Agreements at the point that they begin to care for a child. The agreement should involve the child, parents, carers, Child Care Operations and Family Placement Team Social Workers. The Agreement will contain the information the Department considers necessary to enable foster carers to care for the child with agreed support.
4. Provide foster carers with a hand-book which contains information on all aspects of the fostering tasks including:-
  - ◆ The Department's Complaints and Representation Procedure,
  - ◆ The Allegations against Foster Carers procedure.
  - ◆ Details of carers membership of the Fostering Network and Leicestershire Foster Care Association
  - ◆ The Access to Records Policy
5. Move placement details on children from the Carer's file, one year after the end of placement.
6. Consult with the foster carer's representatives in the Leicestershire Foster Care Association about new policy and procedures issues which will affect foster carers.

**1. I / We ..... undertake to give immediate notice to the Department of:**

- a) Any intended change of address
- b) Any change in the composition of our household (to include any animal that may pose a danger or risk to children).
- c) Any change in our personal circumstances and any other event affecting either our capacity to care for any child placed or the suitability of our household
- d) Any request or application made by us or to foster or adopt children or to apply to be adult carer's or for registration to provide child-minding for children under the age of 8.

**2. We also undertake to:-**

- Maintain our home to the 'fit' standard requirement of foster carers to ensure good health, safety and hygiene. (The standard required for child-minding registration is a measurement that will be used).
- Ensure that the foster child has his / her own bed and personal storage space. Any room sharing is determined in advance of placement.
- Allow the bedroom to be inspected periodically.

- Ensure that all items which contribute to a child's understanding of their history are promoted and respected.
- Contribute to a child's understanding of their history by the provision of photographs and other mementoes.
- Maintain bedroom furniture, bedding and child's clothing to a satisfactory standard. This may include listing a child's clothing and belongings at the time the child moves in.
- Promote a child's positive image of their family.
- Ensure that a child moves on with adequate luggage.

#### **1. As Foster Carers we agree to:-**

- Comply with the terms of any foster placement agreement, to care for the child placed with me as if they were a member of our family and to promote their welfare having regard to the Department's long and short-term arrangements for the child. To promote the child's well being in respect of their, physical, emotional, and cultural development
- Contribute information to each child's Care Plan and Review and work to recommendations from planning meetings. Foster carers are particularly expected to contribute to the assessment of a child's educational needs and to help with the child's personal educational plans (PEP).
- Actively co-operate with the specific tasks identified at the placement meeting and subsequent reviews.
- Actively encourage a child's knowledge and experience of her / his religious, cultural and linguistic background and ethnicity. This may include helping parents to be involved in decisions about their child's day to day care. Actively promoting sibling and other family contacts.
- Work with supervising social worker to agree a personal development plan and work towards the standards required for foster carers.
- Ensure that each child in our care is registered with a General Practitioner and that each child receives appropriate health care which may include contact with General Practitioners, dentists, opticians and mental health specialists.
- Notify the Department immediately of any serious illness of the child or of any serious accident affecting the child.
- To notify the department of any incident where the child is missing from the foster home for any period longer than 1 hour unless the Child Care Plan indicates otherwise.
- Ensure that any information relating to a child is kept confidential and is not disclosed to any person without the consent of the Department. Care should not speak to any media representative without the prior consent of the Department.

- Not to use corporal punishment including slapping and rough handling to any child placed.
- To promote a child's independence skills at an appropriate level for their age and understanding
- To tell the social worker of any incident of abuse which are revealed by the child, such revelations can never be kept secret.
- To allow the child / young person to be removed from the foster home by a duly authorised person.
- Protect the child or young person from abuse and promote their welfare.
- To co-operate with any child protection procedure and investigation of allegations of abuse by foster carers or members of the carer's household.

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I / We have read and understood the above responsibilities and obligations and agree to undertake them for and on behalf of Leicestershire County Council Children & Young People's Service.

<b>Signed</b>		<b>Foster Carer</b>
<b>Signed</b>		<b>Foster Carer</b>
<b>Signed</b>		<b>Social Worker Family Placement Team</b>
<b>Dated</b>		