

## FOSTER CARER ANNUAL REVIEWS

**Local Authorities are required by Regulation 29** (The Fostering Services Regulations 2001) to review the approval of foster carers at least once a year. In most cases an annual review is about right, but it may be more frequent if there are any major changes in your circumstances.

**The Foster Carer Annual Review** should focus on you as carers. It should be a two-way process, offering an opportunity for the airing and discussion of both the foster carer's views and of the Local Authority's view and of any difficulties arising from either point of view. If you are a fostering couple it is important that you both attend your review. Ideally it is best for these reviews to take place when there are no foster children around. Your own children, however, will be asked to contribute to the review even if they do not attend it, by means of a consultation form.

**Topics covered** in the review process are,

- Health
- Home and carer safety
- Training and Development matters
- Discussion about your past and future fostering role.
- The views of your own children and how fostering affects them
- The views of social workers with children in the placement

We will also check, as a statutory responsibility, that your **Criminal Records Bureau** check has been updated within the past three years. Any young people in your family will also be asked to give their consent to a CRB check once they are 18.

Medical information is also updated.

Your review is an opportunity to take "time out" and consider your needs. The review will reflect both the issues you raise with your fostering social worker and with the "end of placement" reports. It should identify how training, support and supervision can be improved in the year ahead. You will receive a form in advance of the review to complete. This is your opportunity to think about the issues you want to raise at your review.

The regulations also provide for the foster carer to be notified in writing of the outcome of the review including any changes in the terms of approval. Foster carers are advised to keep their copy of the review form and to refer to it as necessary throughout the year.

If there are any significant changes to your circumstances, or concerns raised at the Annual Review, these will be referred to the Fostering Panel.