

Islington Fostering Service

Children's guide for young people in foster care



My Name

My carer is

Our number is

Address

.....

My social worker is

if they aren't there team name

Their number is

The supervising social worker is

If they aren't there

My placement is provided by

My reviewing officer is

Texts /Email addresses



What is foster care?

Foster carers look after children and young people of all ages who can not live with their parents or family. Your stay may be for a few days or longer but your foster carer will welcome you as part of their family however long you are there.

Your social worker will choose the foster carer best suited to look after you, they will look at what school you go to and how you will keep in touch with your family and friends. Foster families may be different from your own family but they will look after you and keep you safe.

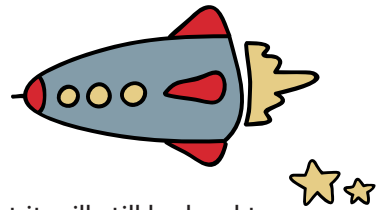


Why can't I stay with my family?

There are different reasons why children can't live with their own family. Your social worker will answer your questions about this.



Who is involved?



You

You may be 'looked after' for different reasons but it will still be hard to move away from your home and family. It is important you are as happy as you can be! Remember you are not alone and there are people you can talk to during this time, your foster carer, your social worker, your teachers and the independent reviewing officer.

Foster carer

These are people who care for children and young people when they cannot live with their own family, keeping them safe, healthy and helping with their learning.

The fostering Service

A supervising social worker from the fostering service will visit the foster home. Their job is to make sure that you are well looked after and the foster carer is treating you properly. They train your foster carer to do their best to look after you and help them to meet your needs

Your social worker

Your social worker works for Islington Council and is there to help you. He or she will visit you every month to make sure everything is OK and will carry on being your social worker if you move. You can talk to your social worker about how you are feeling and ask them to sort out any problems. The social worker will give you as much information as they can before you move into your new foster home.

Independent reviewing officer

Your care plan is an official document that sets out how Islington is going to care for you. The reviewing officer holds the review of your care plan and invites you, your social worker, foster carer and parents to attend. The reviews make sure these people work together to get what is best for you.



What will my foster carer do?

They will look after you, keep you safe, healthy and treat you as part of their family. In return you must treat them with respect and remember they may have different house rules to what you are used to! Your foster carer will listen to you and keep anything you tell them private, but will share any concerns with your social worker.

You will have a room in your new home with space for your own things that are important to you. Your foster carer will pay for your clothes, toiletries, food, outings and things you enjoy doing like social clubs and activities. They will also give you some pocket money!

Your foster carer and social worker will do all they can to help you to do well at school or college, so you can have a great future. Your foster carer will help you to learn to look after yourself so you can do well as an adult.

Your carer will regularly put money into a savings account for when you are 18. We will ensure that you have access to a computer in the home but you may have to share it fairly with other young people.



Can I see my family and when will I be able to go home?

The social worker will meet with your family to decide what will happen next. It is important for you to keep in touch with your friends and family, this will be arranged by your social worker and your carer.





What if I need to talk to someone?

This can be a difficult time and it is common to feel upset, scared and even angry. Your foster family and social worker are there to help you so tell them what you are worried about.

If you would like to speak to someone separate from the fostering service, you can contact the Children's Active Involvement Service (CAIS), who can set up someone from VOICE. CAIS will also invite you to events with other young people in foster care.

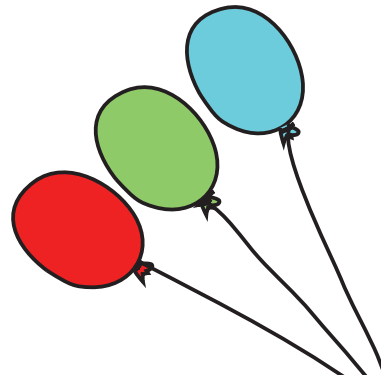
CAIS - **Sharon Goldman** or **Akosuah Powell**

Telephone: **020 7527 8694**

Text: **07825 098270**

Email: **sharon.goldman@islington.gov.uk**

You can also call VOICE on **0808 800 5792**.



What if I feel unhappy and want to complain?



If you are unhappy with anything in your foster family talk to them about it, many things can be solved by talking. If this doesn't help, talk to your social worker who may be able to help you make a complaint.

You can speak to the children's complaints officer yourself on **0800 408 0400**. You can also email **carole.clark@islington.gov.uk** or write to;

**Children's complaints,
68 Halliford Street
London
N1 3RH**



Ofsted inspects all fostering services. You can call them on **0300 123 1231**. You can email them at **enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk** or write to;

**3rd floor Royal Exchange Buildings
St Anne's Square,
Manchester,
M2 7LA**

