

**EMBRACE THERAPEUTIC FOSTERING SERVICE**

**A FOSTER CARE AGREEMENT**

**Terms of approval-**

Agreement between …………………………………… and Embrace Therapeutic Fostering Services.

Date if initial panel-

Terms of approval-

Number of children-

Siblings/parent/child subject to (10.6-NMS)

Ages-0-17 years

Gender-male/female/both

Duration- respite/short/medium/long terms

Any other conditions-

**Support to foster carer's, supply and return of equipment**.

Each foster carer has the right to receive the following support:

1. Finance- The foster care allowances in the Statement of Purpose gives details of monthly allowances, fees and other payments to which a foster carer may be entitled in accordance with NMS 28. Foster carers will be informed every year about any changes to these payments. Payments are made by direct credit transfer on a regular basis. Please note allowances afforded to a child are detailed in the children’s guide and the supervising social worker will support you in this area and inform you of contractual agreements. Foster children are to be encouraged to save. However children’s savings are saved at source by Embrace Fostering. Foster carers will award clothing allowances, pocket money and activity allowance to foster children.
2. Weekly allowances are included in the career structure in accordance with current guidance from The Fostering Network, Foster care allowances and Income Tax. This will cover the full holistic care needs of the foster child including Christmas and Birthdays. Some placements are subject to enhanced allowance this will be put in writing and will be for this foster child only.
3. Over-Payments -These can occur for a variety of reasons. When a child must leave suddenly, overpayment for a day will be waived, but overpayments for longer periods will be reclaimed. Carers should notify the supervising social worker promptly if you continue to receive allowances when, due to changes in circumstances, payments should have been terminated.
4. Equipment -Any equipment essential to the task of caring for a foster child, carers will be supported to obtain in circumstances where equipment is supplied to the foster carers. then all equipment must be returned to Embrace Fostering if the foster carer ceases to foster/ or child/young person is discharged.
5. Foster carers will receive a minimum of supervision once a month or 3 monthly if they do not have a foster placement. Weekly phone calls will occur normally. However, support and phone calls will be needs led according to needs to the foster child and foster carers and reviewed in consultation. During supervision, the foster child will be seen in private, and their views and happiness ascertained and any issues they wish to raise. This is a child protection measure and will be recorded on CHARMS facility.
6. Foster carers agree to work in partnership with Embrace fostering and the Local authority social workers, birth family (where appropriate).
7. Social Work Advice and Assistance- This will be offered to the foster carers by their own Supervising Social Worker/support worker/area team/therapist and by the Social Worker for any child placed with them.
8. Your Supervising Social Worker will be……………………… and you should let him/her know of any significant changes in your circumstances (see paragraph 12).
9. Your Supervising Social Worker/support worker/area team will make an occasional unannounced visit during day/evening/weekends at least once per fostering year.
10. Foster Carers Support Groups- These are a vital part of Embrace fostering support to foster carers. Foster carers are encouraged to attend them. There will also be therapeutic group reflection sessions, consultation days with the registered person, fun days and consultation days for children and young people.
11. Additional Forms of Support Will be made available whenever possible and/or when they are essential to the maintenance of a particular placement. Any specific extra support agreed will be listed in the child’s file and running records and the foster carers supervision and agreed with the placing social worker.
12. All Embrace foster carers have membership to the Fostering Network. This provides publications, information about training courses, and membership includes the benefits of the Fostering Network’s public liability insurance cover. Embrace fostering covers the cost of an advice and mediation service for foster carers which is provided by the Fostering Network.
13. Embrace Fostering encourages foster carers to use informal networks to support and assist each other.
14. Buddy foster Carers, who are themselves foster carers, are available in each area for advice and support. (To be implemented)
15. Foster carers are to consult/inform Embrace and LA social workers of progress, changes pertaining to the foster child, attend all meetings, support and facilitate contact where appropriate and feedback to social workers.
16. Foster carers are to provide transport to education and transport/support contact with parents/siblings etc. Many LA request a foster carer completes over 200 miles per week before mileage can be claimed. Your supervising social worker will support you with this.
17. Foster carers must hold a full UK driving licence and the car must have fully comprehensive insurance, current MOT meeting all safety requirements. The documents must be provided to the supervising social worker annually after initial assessment.
18. at times contact logs may have to be recorded. Contact can be subject to change. Foster carers are to work professionally with birth family, share information, dress the child in clothes the family have purchased etc.
19. Foster carers are required to keep information regarding birth family confidential.
20. Foster carers must support all education needs for children to achieve maximum academic achievements.
21. Embrace Fostering maintains appropriate public liability insurance and theft in accordance with Fostering Services Regulations37(3)(e).

**Training and audit of compliance Ofsted.**

Embrace Fostering ensures all new carers complete preapproval training- Skills to Foster.

Embrace Fostering is committed to providing training opportunities (NMS 20) for all its foster carers, support network, household members, to increase their knowledge and skills in caring for children. Annual Inspection by Ofsted will audit compliance particularly regarding mandatory training. Carers must undertake training, to keep up their registration.

It is advised that carers take every advantage of training opportunity offered them.

Embrace Fostering is required to ensure that foster carers complete (withing 12 months of approval) the Induction Standards Workbook, and have a working knowledge of:

1. Child development to include enhancing the child's self-worth.
2. The effects of separation and loss on children and adults.
3. The importance of working in partnership with natural parents.
4. Helping a child to maintain appropriate contacts.
5. The laws relating to children who are looked after by the Local Authority vi, Race, religion, and culture in the care of children.
6. Health, hygiene, and first aid. Health promotion, and communicable diseases.
7. Health and Safety.
8. Caring for a child who has been abused, and safe caring skills.
9. Life Story work xi. Preparing a young person to move into independence or semi-independent living.

The first year of fostering is classed being a probationary year and additional support and training is offered at a higher level, and a buddy carer may be linked to support you also.

It is particularly helpful if foster carers can take part in relevant training events, with other foster carers and social work staff. Where two adults in one household are approved, as joint carers, it is expected that both complete all training. Carers are too complete First Aid, leaving care, Transitions, Safe handling of medication, Health promotions every 3 years, and Behaviour management, Safe care, and Safeguarding annually.

The training needs of foster carers own children are recognised ,and need to be discussed with the Supervising Social Worker. Safe care is completed annually.

Foster carers undertaking specialist tasks, will be offered appropriate training for that task.

Embrace Fostering also runs a Level 3 Diploma, in caring for children and young people. Details can be obtained from your Supervising Social Worker.

Foster carers will be provided with a Training Portfolio, to record all training courses attended, and other evidence of their practice and learning e.g., letters of thanks from children, and or social workers, attendance at support groups, planning and review meetings, photocopies of Life Story work, reflective accounts of their fostering, etc. This is recorded on the CHARMS system, which also includes the Foster Carers supervision, and annual review. The Annual Review will include an appraisal of training and development needs, recorded in the Review report.

Embrace Fostering is aiming to make training more accessible to more foster carers, through the timing of training events. Using a variety of mediums, groups sessions, online SCTH sessions, 121 training if required. Training is aimed to meet anti discriminatory, and equal opportunities practice, and are intended to encourage foster carers to attend.

Embrace Fostering will provide additional training/support for i.e., transracial placements/disability placements/LGBT to ensure the best outcomes and high-quality care is achieved for foster children.

Embrace Fostering is linked to a career structure, to ensure carers have opportunity to progress, and acquire the Diploma Level 3.

**Foster carer reviews**

The approval of foster carers will be reviewed annually. Reviews may also be held in the event of a change of circumstance, or a complaint.

The Review will be conducted by an independent supervising social worker, in the role of reviewing officer, and will focus on the foster carers rather than any specific placement. A Review will include a visit and inspection of the foster home, as well as contact with other members of the foster carer's household. The Review provides an opportunity to discuss the foster carer s view of the service, offered by Embrace Fostering, their experiences in specific aspects of fostering, their training needs and any grievances they may have. The views of the Social Workers of all the children placed, the Children themselves, Birth family, Education, LAC, IRO, and the views of the foster carers, Supervising Social Worker, will be included in the Review.

The Review is an opportunity to consider, whether the terms of a foster carer’s approval, should be changed or extended. Foster carers are asked to sign the Review report, and given a copy, as well as a letter, regarding the outcome of their review and their registration. The first Review following approval, will be presented to the Fostering Panel. Carer ‘s status will be confirmed at this Review.

An appeal process is available if the carers disagree with a review decision, request support from your supervising social worker in this circumstance.

**Placement plans for each foster child.**

Embrace fostering will ensure full information is provided to foster carers, about any pending placement, to ensure protection and wellbeing of the foster child, foster cares birth children, household members, and others, carers may have responsibility for.

Ideally foster children should have a period of introduction, prior to placement to support, carers, birth child, foster child, making an informed choice. Also considering the home, environment, pets, before moving in. NMS 11.

Embrace fostering ensure that foster carers and foster children are carefully matched, after obtaining as much information as possible from the team around the child. NMS 15. If there are any gaps in the match, Embrace Fostering will work with the Responsible Authority, to ensure additional training support or resources are identified. In an emergency, if the available placement cannot meet the needs, in terms of gender, ethnic origin, religion, language, culture, disability or sexuality, then Embrace Fostering will take steps to achieve the gaps/match normally withing 6 weeks.

Embrace Fostering will obtain as much health information as possible, before or as soon after placement and obtain clear guidance on medical consent.

Embrace Fostering will prioritise helping foster carers, to meet a foster child’s educational need.

Foster carers will fully comply with, placement agreements, care placement plan, for each child placed. Permission for any action not covered in the plans, must be obtained from the supervising social worker before you do anything. Foster carers must comply with Embrace Fostering, and local procedures, for the protection of children, behaviour management, and children missing from the foster home. (Regulations 12 &13).

Placement care plans will be completed for each child who is fostered. It will cover the following areas, (this is also reflected in the CHARMS file): -

Purpose and aims of placement.

The child’s background.

The child’s health, and health care needs.

The child’s racial, cultural, and religious needs.

The child’s leisure, recreational needs.

The child’s educational needs.

Arrangements for financial support.

Consent to medical, dental treatment.

The circumstances in which it is necessary, to obtain the consent of the responsible authority, for the child to live, even temporarily, away from the foster home.

Arrangements for visits to the child, and the foster home, by social workers and other professionals. The frequency and nature of contact between the child and his/her parents, and any other significant adults

Arrangements for the reviews of the child’s care plan and progress.

**Representation and complaints procedure**

Embrace Fostering will ensure all foster carers, foster children, birth children, are aware of the complaints and representations procedure, of both Embrace Fostering and the Local Authority, plus Ofsted, including how investigations will be conducted. Independent support will be allocated should a complaint be made against a foster carer.

**Protection of children.**

The foster carer has a responsibility to protect and safeguard, any child placed in their care from abuse or neglect. In the event of any allegation of abuse or neglect, the foster carer is required to comply with, the Embrace Fostering, Area, foster child’s area Child Protection procedures, as outlined in the Foster Carer Handbook.

Embrace Fostering has a whistle blowing policy for carers to report concerns about the practice of foster carers, or social workers. This means that Embrace fostering expects carers to notify us, of any concerns they may have, in relation to practice, which may affect the care of a child. This may relate to the behaviour of a child’s supervising/social worker, or another carer.

It is the foster carer s responsibility to ensure their home, garden, and vehicle(s) are safe and well maintained, taking into consideration the age, ability, and needs of the child/ren placed with them. Guidelines are provided in the Safety in the home section of the Foster Carer Handbook.

It is the foster carer s responsibility to ensure that young people, can only access age-appropriate material, on the Internet, or indeed any other media materials, mobile phone usage, gadgets with cameras. This means using age filters on the computer, phone, gadgets, and preventing the use of chat rooms. Social media and internet safety training and risk assessment will be implemented.

Foster carers will permit at any time, any person authorised by the department of state, or the area placing authority, to visit the home and see the foster children.

**Membership of fostering network**

Embrace Fostering will arrange individual membership of Fostering Network, for all short to long term foster carers. It will arrange access to the 24-hour legal line, for any carer receiving a young person in an emergency placement under Regulation 38. The benefits of individual membership include:

1. Access to a 24-hour Legal Advice Line.

2. Insurance cover for legal expenses, for criminal and civil prosecutions associated, with the fostering role.

3. Fostering Network magazine, leaflets, and other publications.

**Insurance for foster carers**

Foster carers are strongly advised to have full home and building, contents insurance. Claims which cannot be dealt with by the foster carer s own insurance policy, or Embrace Fostering insurance policy, will be considered for an ex-gratia payment from Embrace Fostering and/or support from the foster child Local authority.

**Data Protection Act**

Under the Data Protection Act 1998, there are obligations, in relation to securely holding and passing on confidential information. Foster carers are in a unique position of needing overly sensitive information, for them to properly care for children who are placed with them. This information might relate to health, or indeed information about the child’s background, including information relating to others, including the child's parents. This information is highly confidential and sensitive, and should only be disclosed, and passed on to, professionals who have statutory obligations towards the care of the child, e.g., Social Worker, GP, Health Visitor, etc. Written material concerning the child, must be kept securely, and should be returned to Embrace Fostering when the child leaves placement. This information can then be held on the child's file and will be accessible by those who need to have this information and returned to the placing authority.

All Embrace Fostering policy and procedures, and LAC documents, pertaining to the foster child must be kept confidentially.

**Change in foster carer's circumstances**

Foster carers must inform their Family Placement Supervising Social Worker, in writing, of any major change in their circumstances, i.e.-

a. Any intended change of address, including for holidays.

b. Any change in their personal circumstances, likely to affect their capacity to care for any child placed in the household; specifically:

separation or divorce, change in employment.

change in house difficulties associated with, natural children in the family.

changes in the household composition, any new pets, animals, serious long-term sickness, criminal convictions of themselves or members of their household, new partner, new holiday home, car.

Any application for a Residence, Special Guardianship or Adoption Order, in respect of any child in their household, any application to register as a childminder, or to provide day care under Part 3 of the Child Care Act 2006.

Any conflicts of interest.

Employment arrangements should not impact on carers availability to the foster child. i.e., school, exclusion, illness. Employment responsibilities will be considered in terms of approval and matching.

**Corporal punishment.**

In line with Embrace Fostering Policy and Government Regulations, foster carers must not administer corporal punishment, to any child placed with them, see guidelines. Guidance on Use of Restraint and Control in Relation to Children Placed in Foster Homes (see Foster Carer Handbook).

Physical restraint is used only as a last resort where there is imminent risk of harm to the foster child, others, and this must be reported to the supervising social worker immediately.

**Confidentiality.**

All information given to a foster carer about a foster child, or their family is confidential. It should not be disclosed without the consent of the Children, Young People, and Embrace Fostering /Local Authority, and should be returned to the Directorate when the child leaves. Any breach of confidence is extremely serious and could have legal consequences. Any foster carers disclosing confidential information without authority, will have their approval reviewed, and possibly terminated.

**Record keeping**.

a. Diary -All foster carers will be provided with CHARMS record keeping facility, in which to record all foster care commitments and all appointments relating to the child.

b. Records of Child in Placement- It is expected that foster carers keep on-going records, relating to the child’s placement, significant events, and the carer s observation of the child's reaction to contact. Foster carers should also record any incidence of bullying and absconding. These records are made within the CHARMS record keeping facility.

c. Safe Caring Policy -Each foster family is expected to provide a written Safe Caring Policy, along with the supervising social worker, using the Safe Caring guidelines in the Foster Carer Handbook. This policy will be used alongside information provided by the child's social worker at the time of placement, to compile a child-specific safe caring policy, for each child in placement and the carers unique circumstance, and household/environment.

d. Life Story Work, the foster carer is expected to help the child to reflect on, and understand, his/her history, and to keep appropriate memorabilia and photograph albums.

e. Training and Development Portfolio, Foster carers must keep a record of all learning undertaken, along with their supervising social worker. This is recorded in CHARMS, and within the foster carer’s supervision records.

**Undertaking to care for a foster child.**

A foster carer undertakes to care for the child placed, as if the child were a member of the foster carer s family. The foster carer should promote the child's welfare, in a way that is consistent with the long- and short-term arrangements, made for the child by the placing Local authority and Embrace Fostering. As specified in the terms of the care/placement plan. Carers must provide personalised, and protective care that promotes the Child’s identity. (NMS 21).

The foster child must be known by their own name, and not assume any other name, unless the child and person with PR consents. Every effort must be made to meet the child’s individual needs, in terms of gender, religion, ethnic origin, language, culture, disability and sexuality. As set out in the child’s placement plan, and as part of the wider family context (NMS2.3)

The foster carer will endeavour to take the child on holiday with them as part of their family unless genuine reasons make this impractical to do so. At such time support networks (fully checked/DBS) or respite short break care, will be sought with written consent form the placing authority.

Foster carers are required to meet the holistic health needs of the foster child, and register them with the GP, dentists, and optician and thereafter any medical appointments as required. The carers are to act as advocate and permit the child to be examined as required by the Local Authority.

Foster carers will provide a foster child with their own bedroom, or a shared risk assessed (NMS 10.6) bedroom for siblings or parent and child, with consent from the Local Authority. The risk assessment will determine, risk of bullying, abuse, history, and views of the siblings, and consultation between the team around the child.

Babies under the age of 2 years can share the foster carers bedroom, this could be extended to 3 years of age, subject to agreement from the local authority in writing. This must be clearly in the child’s best interest and meets the Requirement of the Fostering Services Regulations, and the National Minimum Standards.

Foster children are to be provided with a balanced diet, incorporating some treats, and opportunity for them to access their favourite meal in moderation. Dependent on age/ability, children should have the opportunity to help or be supported to shop and prepare meals.

Foster carers must ensure their homes, holiday homes meet the BAAF health and safety checklist, this includes fire safety, pet risk assessment, covid risk assessments.

The pet policy is geared to ensure safety of foster children.

Foster carers must adhere to all risk assessments in place, and these are reviewable at each supervision.

Foster carers must provide all foster children with learning opportunities to develop independence skills. If foster children are due to move to semi-independent living, then foster carers must actively support the pathway plan.

Foster carers should support and guide foster children to choose their own clothes, hairstyles, and identity choices. However, piercing and tattoos need to have Local authority consultation/consent.

Foster carers are required to adhere to Embrace Fostering Policies and Procedures, and operate in accordance with the Statement of Purpose, and the Fostering Services National Minimum Standards and Regulations.

**Visits by Ofsted.**

Foster carers are required to co-operate as reasonably required with Ofsted, and to allow a person authorised by Ofsted, to interview them and visit their home at any reasonable time.

**Change in foster child's circumstances.**

The foster carer should keep the child's social worker informed about the child's progress and notify the child's social worker immediately of any serious illness of the child, or of any other serious occurrence, affecting the child as listed in Schedule 6 or 7 of the Fostering Services Regulations. (See appendix 1). So, Embrace Fostering can inform the Responsible authority/Area Authority/the police/secretary of State/Primary care trust (as required). Schedule 7 includes notifications include, death of a child, serious illness/accident/infectious disease, any serious offence by the child, involvement in child sexual exploitation, serious incident requiring the police to visit, occasions a child is missing/absent from home, complaint about a foster carer and any child protection issues.

Any change or proposed change of the legal status of the child, (e.g., discharge of a Care Order through making an Adoption, Special Guardianship or Residence Order), could significantly alter the basis of any agreement with the carer.

Foster carers are to be always available in case of an emergency, pertaining to their foster child.

Foster child will be afforded appropriate support and supervision by their foster carers. Well, pre-planned support, should the carers have to attend events/celebrations. Support network to be fully checked, (DBS), and LA consent.

**Removal of foster child from foster home.**

The foster carer must allow the child to be removed from their home if requested to do so by the Local authority and /or Embrace Fostering. All paperwork, diaries and records concerning the child and all their belongings must be returned to the Local authority/Embrace Fostering.

**Termination of foster carer approval and return of paperwork**.

If concerns are raised about the standard of care provided by the foster carer, or if there are child protection issues, and these are established after the initial inquiry, approval status of the carers will be referred to the appropriate fostering panel for review.

One option for the panel would be to recommend Embrace Fostering terminate the foster carers approval. (See Process for Termination of Approval of Foster Carers). In such a case, the carer will be notified of Embrace Fostering decision in writing.

A foster carer may give notice in writing to Embrace Fostering, at any time they no longer wish to act as a foster carer. Their approval will then be terminated twenty-eight days from the date on which the notice is received. (Regulation28(13).

However, if the foster carer wishes to resign, and they have a foster child in placement, it is requested that up to 3 months’ notice are given, to allow appropriate planning for the foster child to move on positively and planned.

If a foster carer wishes to terminate, give notice, on their foster placement only, full reasons must be shared with the supervising social worker and Local authority. A disruption/sustainability meeting is to occur prior to notice being submitted. Your supervising social worker will support you on the required amount of notice required as per contractual agreement.

Where carers wish to resign/transfer to another fostering agency or Local Authority, they must follow the Protocol- Movement of Carers between Agencies. (See attached)

**Declaration (and signature).**

We the undersigned agree and are bound by the terms and conditions of this Foster Carer Agreement, and understand it is not an employment contract and I/We regarded self-employed (The fostering network, Foster Care Allowances. Income Tax).

I/We undertake the duties as an Embrace Foster Carer and understand a breach could lead to Factfinding. /investigation/review of suitability to foster.

Signed (Embrace Fostering) Date -

Signed (Foster carer) Date -

Signed (Foster carer) Date -

NB If there are two approved foster carers in the household, this agreement must be signed by both carers.

**ANNEX 1**.

**PROTOCOL**

**PROTOCOL FOR TRANSFER BETWEEN FOSTERING SERVICES**

Protocol – movement of Carers Between Agencies

The Fostering Network provide guidance for foster carers wishing to transfer from one fostering provider to another fostering provider.

Foster carers have the freedom to move between Fostering providers either IFA or Local Authority.

The transfer protocol is based on the welfare of any foster child in placement must be of paramount consideration. Embrace Fostering fully complies with this protocol when dealing with external agencies/carers.

1. Foster carers can transfer to another fostering provider when they have foster children in placement, unless arrangements for continuing the management of the foster placement, are made to the satisfaction of the foster child’s placing Local Authority., Approving authority or current IFA, if they are different.
2. Foster carers must inform the existing fostering provider in writing if they are considering a transfer move to another IFA/Local authority. Under no circumstances can a Form F assessment commence by another fostering provider before such notice is given.

**IMPORTANT- Foster carers wishing to join Embrace Fostering must follow the below procedure-**

1. Letter 1- write to your current fostering provider stating why you are thinking of transferring. List any issues clearly and give 14 days for a written response to your concerns.
2. Letter 2- if after 14 days you have had no response or the response is not satisfactory, and you still intend to transfer to Embrace fostering, then a second letter is written to your current agency referring to the first letter and giving formal notice of your intention to resign. You must state that a representative of Embrace fostering will contact the current agency to discuss the notice period. Embrace fostering and your foster child’s social worker, must have copies of both letters. An assessment cannot commence until the second letter is sent/contact made. IMPORTANT if you have foster children in placement a protocol meeting must occur before any assessment commences.
3. When foster carers have informed their current fostering provider that they wish to move, a meeting should be convened between the proposed between Embrace Fostering, your current IFA and the Local authority for your foster child/children. This meeting needs to consider-
4. how a move to Embrace Fostering may impact on foster child/children
5. the ongoing arrangements for the management of the foster placements by the existing organisation, including the maintenance of the care plan.
6. The protocol that Embrace Fostering may use any future placements with the foster carers
7. The continuing arrangements for the approval of the foster carers
8. The vies of the child, child’s parents or anu other interested party.
9. The protocol meeting must agree the terms of the move are in the child’s best interest and specify management arrangements which will determine the transfer and maintain existing placements.
10. Where such arrangements are agreed to the satisfaction of the Local Authority, the approving authority if different and the existing IFA, then the new IFA may commence the Form F assessment process and request a reference from the current foster agency and placing authority. Embrace fostering will arrange a file view with the current fostering agency.
11. Where such arrangement cannot be reached, the foster carers will remain with their current IFA until the foster child’s placement ends naturally. At this point the foster carers can transfer to Embrace fostering.
12. Transfer will only be completed after the full Form F assessment of the foster carers. Importantly NMS 20.11 states where a carer moves to a new fostering service, the carer can take their training and development portfolio with them and, on the request of the new provider, the extent to which the agreed training and development standards have been met, will be made available.

**ANNEX 2.**

**COMMITMENTS FROM THE FOSTER CARERS CHARTER**

Children come first.

* Children in foster care deserve to experience as full a family life as possible as part of a loving foster family with carers who can make everyday decisions as they would their own children and without the child feeling that they stand out as a looked after child.
* Children must be given every support to develop their own identities and aspirations, fulfil their potential, and take advantage of all opportunities to promote their talents and skills. Above all they should be listened to.

Local authorities and foster inf services must

* Recognize in practice the importance of a child’s relationship with his rt her foster family as one that can make the biggest difference in the child’s life, and which can endure into adulthood.
* Listen to, involve the foster carers and their foster children in decision making and planning, and provide foster carers and their foster children with full information about each other.
* In making placements be clear about the continuing care or support there will be (including for the child into adulthood), be sensitive to the needs of the foster carer and the child in making and ending placements and have contingency plans should the placement not work.
* Treat foster carers with openness, fairness, and respect as a core member of the team around the child and support them in making reasonable and appropriate decision on behalf of their foster child.
* Ensure that foster carers have the support services and development opportunities they need to provide their foster children with the best possible care. That includes liaising with local foster carers groups and seeking to respond to problems and disseminate nest practice.
* Make sure foster carers are compensated on the time and are given clear information about any support, allowances, fees, and holidays they will receive including in cases if dispute with the service or during gaps in placement.

Foster carers must

* Provide positive adult role models, treat the foster child as they would their own child, and be a “pushy parent” in advocating for all aspects of the child development, including educational attainment and physical and emotional health and wellbeing and co-operate fully a part of a team with other key professionals in the child’s life.
* Support their foster child and do all they can to make the placement work. Take part in learning and development, use skills and approaches that make a positive impact and enable the child to reach his or her own potential. Support their foster child to help them to counter bullying and discrimination because of their care status.