

Manual:	Foster Carers Handbook; Fostering Service Procedures
Title:	Training and Training, Support and Development Standards Portfolio (FCH/046)
Last Reviewed:	15/01/2015
Next Review Due:	15/01/2018

INTRODUCTION

Drawing on the expertise of a wide range of professionals from various backgrounds, training for Foster Carers in County Durham aims to provide carers with the knowledge and skills required to face the challenges of their role. The programme is intended to provide carers with a choice of courses that will enable them to develop as carers and to learn more about the topics that they find interesting. Training is informed by government policy, legislation and input from carers and Fostering Social Workers.

Most of the courses that are offered are appropriate for all carers. Some courses are more specialist but Fostering Social Workers will help to guide carers to choose the right courses for them.

Our training programme has important links to the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Children and Young People's Workforce, and the Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce. This enables Foster Carers to improve their skills; increase knowledge and achieve a nationally recognised qualification. Entry onto the Diploma and Certificate is dependant on funding availability and previous qualifications held by the applicant.

Foster Carer training and development is recognised as being an important factor in improving outcomes for looked after children. The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services stress that training for carers should be set within a framework of anti-discriminatory practice and be made available to all foster carers. Our training is organised and facilitated in a way to encourage participation of all carers by ensuring venues are located across the county.

Continuous development of Foster Carers is vital for improving outcomes for children and young people. Therefore, there is an expectation that carers will regularly refresh their knowledge in key areas and work with Fostering Social Workers to identify new areas for development.

On completion of a training course, carers are asked to reflect on the training and discuss with their Fostering Social Worker how they will incorporate what they have learned into their work with children and young people.

This evidence will build into a portfolio to record training carers have attended. It will include their personal reflections on how they will incorporate what they have learned in training into work with children and young people.

TSD Training, Support and Development Standards

Foster Carers must complete the TSD Training, Support and Development Standards within the first year of approval (family and friends carers have 18 months to complete.) Fostering Social workers will assist carers to collate evidence during supervision sessions. To support carers in this task the training officer provides advice, support and guidance where needed. Carers have to provide evidence to cover the following standards:

Standard 1: understand the principles and values essential for fostering children and young people

Standard 2: understand your role as a Foster Carer

Standard 3: understand health and safety, and healthy caring

Standard 4: know how to communicate effectively

Standard 5: understand the development of children and young people

Standard 6: safeguard children and young people (keep them safe from harm)

Standard 7: develop yourself

When the standards have all been covered the Fostering Social Worker, or training officer, will then assess the portfolio. If the evidence covers the standards the portfolio will be signed as competent and passed to an internal verification panel for verification.

Training Guidance

All carers should complete the following mandatory courses within the **first** year of approval and repeat every 3 years to continually update their knowledge:

Basic Food Hygiene

Care Planning and The Role Of The Professional Foster Carer

Child Development

First Aid

Neglect

Recording with Care

Safe Care

Safeguarding Children

The following courses should be completed within **three** years of approval and then refreshed every 3 years after that:

Attachment Training

Behaviour Management

Child Abuse and the Internet

Child Protection

Education Training

A range of optional courses is available to carers and will be advertised yearly in the training programme.

Nominations on courses

The training needs of foster carers are identified through supervisions with their Fostering Social Worker. These needs are then recorded on to a Social Services Information Database (SSID).

Once carers have been nominated for a training course on SSID they will receive a letter of invitation. In most cases they will receive this letter no later than six weeks before the date of the course.

If demand for a particular course is very high we may need to offer the carer an alternative date.

If after receiving their confirmation letter carers are no longer able to attend a course it is important that they let us know. We may be able to offer the place to another carer or adjust the numbers for lunch.

All attendance at training is recorded on SSID. This information is available to the Fostering Social Workers for discussion at supervision and is monitored by the Team Managers each month.

When a course has to be cancelled we will do our best to let participants know in good time.

Related Documents

Appendix 1 – Training Questionnaire

Dear.....

You recently attended some training on

Please complete this short questionnaire in order to help us to evaluate the.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Have you made any changes as a result of attending this training?

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What are the benefits for you as a carer from making these changes?

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What are the benefits for any children or young people that you care for?

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Have you experienced any difficulties in making changes?

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Are you able to evidence any changes you've made? (Recorded in supervision or your own records) Please give details

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Would you benefit from further training related to this topic?

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We may wish to contact you to discuss your answers further.

Aly Napier
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 Fostering and Adoption