

Department for Children, Adults and Health

**Fostering Service**

**Guidance for the Induction of**

**New Foster Carers**

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# **Induction Guidelines for Foster Carers - Post Approval**

**Introduction and Legal Framework**

It is important that foster carers receive the support and supervision they need in order to provide good care for the children and young people who are placed with them. The giving of information starts at the pre-approval stage when carers are provided training. As part of the assessment they also undertake tasks that help them to prepare for the job they are about to embark on e.g. safer caring policy. It is crucial that this support, guidance and information giving continues after approval and throughout their career. The guidance in this document is for the induction of new carers who have been approved or who are temporarily approved as foster carers.

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering states:

20. 1. All new foster carers receive an induction

2. All foster carers, including all members of a household who are approved foster carers, are supported to achieve the Children’s Workforce Development Council’s Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care. Short break carers who are approved foster carers are supported to achieve the Training Support & Development Standards for Short Break Carers. Family and friends foster carers are supported to achieve the Training, Support and Development Standards for Family and Friends Foster Carers.

21. 10. On approval, foster carers are given information, either a handbook or electronic resources, which cover policies, procedures (including with regard to allegations), guidance, financial information, legal information and insurance details. This information is updated regularly.

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| Matters relating to foster carers training and support | Training schedule  CWDC TSD workbook  Support groups  PDP  Link to fostering handbook [www.fosteringhandbook.com/southglos](http://www.fosteringhandbook.com/southglos)  Registered with Research in Practice  Community Care Inform licence  Membership of Fostering Network  A-Z of therapeutic parenting  Signs of Safety |
| Matters relating to finance | Payments process, bank details  Mileage claim form, to be submitted monthly  Fees and allowances  Banding  Insurance  Tax and benefits |
| Matters relating to fostering processes | Fostering agreement, (must be signed before they care for a child)  Foster carer ID card  Supervision agreement  Unannounced visit  Foster carer annual review  Significant changes to the household  Foster carer recording  Serious incident forms, - notifiable events  Respite |
| Matters relating to the child or young person in care | Placement finding process  Child or young person’s profile, matching  Placement planning meetings  Care plan  Delegated authority  Safe care policy  Health assessments, - contact details of designated nurse for children in care  PEP meetings, - contact details for virtual head teacher  Family time  Child in care reviews, - contact details for IRO team |
| Matters relating to South Gloucestershire | Organisational structure  Fostering team telephone/email list including working hours  How to contact a manager  Fostering support groups & engagement events  How to make a complaint  Out of hours support  Fostering best practice standards  Details of discounts for South Glos Foster carers  Activity vouchers |

**New carer induction checklist.**