

Fostering Social Worker Practice Standards:

These standards define good practice and make explicit what is expected of staff when working with children, families and foster carers;

As a social worker:

- 1) I will value and respect each individual, recognising their strengths and abilities and respecting differences across diverse communities and challenge the impact of disadvantage and discrimination on families.
- 2) I will respect and promote the human rights, views, wishes and feelings of people I work with, balancing rights and risks and enabling access to advice and advocacy support.
- 3) I will work collaboratively with all relevant professionals who will be involved in supporting children/young people's planning and review process with robust professional challenge.
- 4) I will comply with the Fostering Regulations, ensuring foster carers to have timely supervision which is supportive as well as challenging practice which does not meet the national minimum standards. Foster carers' reviews will be completed yearly with robust analysis of the year and future goals and aims. Reviews to include the importance of foster carer's birth children, community, family and support systems.
- 5) I will deal with all allegations and/or standards of care issues in a timely manner avoiding unnecessary stress to the child/young person and the foster carers.
- 6) I will support foster carers to promote stability of the foster home and ensure the foster home is meeting the needs of children and young people, considering their wishes and feelings. I will ensure that the child/young person's lived experience is recorded and acted upon where possible.
- 7) I will maintain clear professional boundaries with foster carers, ensure personal information shared is relevant, gifts of any description to be recorded and managers informed. I will ensure foster carers understand the role of Fostering Social Worker. Where conflict of interest may occur, I will declare this as soon as possible.
- 8) I will recognise, respond to and challenge behaviour that may indicate resistance to change, ambivalent or selective cooperation with services, and maintain professional curiosity.
- 9) I will ensure that I am fully conversant and up-to date and with Fostering Regulations 2011, National Minimum Standards 2011 and all other relevant legislation and guidance. I will work within these frameworks.
- 10) I am accountable for quality of practice as stated by Social work England in its professional standards.