

Children's Services

Quality Assurance Framework for Fostering Reviews undertaken by Fostering Reviewing Officers

1. Context

The Fostering Service follows the requirements set out in the Fostering Regulations 2011, The Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011 and the Assessment and approval of foster carers: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Service Statutory Guidance 2013 in relation to the Foster Carer Review process.

2. Key requirements

- 2.1 Regulation 28 of the Fostering Regulations 2011 requires Foster Carers to be reviewed annually at a minimum. The Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011 require under Standard 13 that:

'Reviews of foster carers' approval are sufficiently thorough to allow the fostering service to properly satisfy itself about the carers' ongoing suitability to foster' (13.8).

'Areas of concern, or need for additional support, that are identified by reviews are addressed. Such matters identified between reviews are addressed at the time they are identified, where appropriate, rather than waiting for a review' (13.9).

- 2.2 Standard 20 states:

'The reviews of each carers approval include an appraisal of performance against clear and consistent standards set by the agency, and consideration of training and development needs, which are documented in the review report. The foster carer's personal development plan is reviewed, and the effectiveness of training and development received is evaluated. Reviews consider the views of each child currently in placement with the foster carer' (20.6).

- 2.3 The foster carer review is the quality assurance mechanism by which the foster carer's vital role in a foster child's lived experience of corporate parenting is evaluated. Its significance and importance as part of maintaining excellent quality experiences for foster children cannot be over-emphasised. (Foster carer reviews, Good Practice Guide, BAAF 2011).
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of the Fostering Reviewing Officer to complete the fostering review form and audit.
- 2.5 It is the responsibility of the Fostering Social Worker to update the foster carer's Mosaic record following the review.

2.6 It is the responsibility of the Fostering Team and Service Managers to ensure that any actions identified by the review are tracked to completion.

3. Purpose and Function of Foster Carer Reviews

The purpose of reviews is:

- To adhere to regulatory responsibility by reviewing the approval of Foster Carers within one year of approval, and thereafter at intervals of not more than one year.
- To review whether the Foster Carers and their households continue to be suitable to foster.
- To consider whether the Foster Carers terms of approval continue to be appropriate.
- To seek and consider the views of contributors to the review process.
- To quality assure against the Foster Carer Agreement

4. Evidencing the Fostering Journey

4.1 The review process should not be seen as a stand-alone process as it is recognised that during the course of the year information is being gathered during supervision visits and potentially from other sources that will make a significant contribution to the review and overview the full year.

4.2 For Foster Carers the review will evidence their fostering journey which includes the highlights and any difficulties over the year, further personal and professional development and skills, and competence and further experience gained. It will evidence how learning has been put into practice to meet the needs of Children and Young People.

5. Fostering Review template

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|---|---|
| Date of audit | |
| Name of FRO | |
| Name of FSW | |
| Name of Foster carers | |
| Mosaic number | |
| Date of annual review | |
| If there are differences in approvals between FSW and FRO there is a clear rationale for the change and recommendation. | Yes/ No N/A |
| In timescale (12 months from last ADM) | Yes/ No Identify reason for being out of timescale: Delay in FRO receiving papers |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Availability of FSW/FRO/FCs Other reasons: |
| Evidence of feedback from key people as part of the review or evidence that forms have been sent. | Yes/ No |
| Date of last ADM & Panel | Panel: ADM: |
| Mosaic details Case Summary and Chronology- are these current and reflect the current situation for the carers: | Yes/No |

Statutory checks: Are they completed and up to date and evidence on the Mosaic records?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Health & Safety | Yes/ No Date |
| DBS for ALL over 18 in the home | Yes/ No Date |
| Medicals | Yes/ No Date |
| Pet assessments | Yes/ No Date |
| | |

Supervision and Support of Foster Carers

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Dates of unannounced visits If none completed escalation to service manager required. | |
| Supervision visits Evidence of FSW visits 4-6 weekly: Are they reflective, clear purpose and next actions. Evidence of visits including BOTH carers? | Yes/No Yes/ No |
| Evidence of visits include children in the home & their voice and presence is clear? | Yes/ No |
| Supervision between FSW and F Manager Evidence of monthly supervision taking place- is this reflective and does it identify key issues and future dates for training, reviews, visits? | Yes/ No |
| FC Diaries Are they completed, clear and evident? | Yes/ No |
| Delegated Authority is clear and on Mosaic? | Yes/ No |
| Are there FC agreement forms for new placements? | Yes/ No |
| Evidence FCs receive the support they need to effectively care for children? | Yes/ No |

| | |
|--|---|
| | If No escalation to FTM and FSM and details required. |
|--|---|

| Training for Foster carers | |
|--|--|
| Is there evidence of training accessed over the last 12 months? | Yes/ No If no, then escalation needed to Team and service manager |
| Training, Support and Development Standards (TSDs) evidenced within timescales. | Yes/No |
| All core training undertaken in line with policy (both partners in a couple) | Yes/ No |
| Safer caring training undertaken by fostering household and principles used to draw up family safer care policy. | Yes/ No |
| Foster carers training and development portfolio and personal development plans up to date. | Yes/ No |

| Voice of the child | |
|---|---|
| Evidence of safer care plans | Yes/ No If No escalation to FTM and FSM needed |
| Evidence of the foster carers involvement in Child in Care Reviews | Yes/ No |
| Evidence of foster carers involvement in development of care planning | Yes/ No |
| Evidence of positive relationships between FC and CSW? | Yes/ No |

| Standards of Care | |
|--|----------------|
| Has there been a Standards of care investigation? | Yes/ No N/A |
| If Yes- have actions/recommendations been progressed and completed? | Yes/ No N/A |
| Evidence that any allegations made were appropriately investigated within agreed policy | Yes/ No N/A |
| Evidence of Independent Support provided to Foster Carers during the investigation? | Yes/ No N/A |
| Evidence that any allegations or concerns re: standards of care prioritised the protection of the children, whilst supporting the FCs? | Yes/ No N/A |

| Audit Grading | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------|-------------|
| Inadequate | Requires Improvement | Good | Outstanding |
| | | | |

| Actions/Recommendations | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Action | Who/When |
| | |
| | |



Please send copy to Fostering Team Manager (FSW) and QAPaudits@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Copy of audit to be attached to carers Mosaic record.