

# Foster Careline



## A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO FOSTER CARE (aged 11- Onwards)

## Who we are?

Foster Careline finds families that will look after children who are not able to live with their parents or other members of their own family. The time spent with a foster family could be for a short time or sometimes longer.



## Your Foster Carers will make sure that you;

- Have your own bedroom
- Have your own bed to sleep in
- Have somewhere to keep your belongings like clothes
- Attend school or college
- Are kept healthy, safe and happy
- Keep in touch with your family and friends

## Before You go to Stay

Normally you will be able to meet your carers and their family, usually at their home before you go to live with them. You will see their home and your bedroom - you can talk to them about the things you would like to bring with you. We would want you to have the things which are important to you with you at the foster home.

You can say to them what you would like them to know such as:-

- ✚ What food you like
- ✚ Important things like whether you can go to church, mosque, temple etc
- ✚ Your bedroom routines
- ✚ What worries or scares you
- ✚ What you like to do
- ✚ What rules they may have



There will be meetings about you called 'Reviews', held at least once every six months, but often can be more regular. You will normally be at this Review and if not you can say what you want to happen in writing, or ask your Foster Carers, Social Worker or the Agency to say what you want to say.

Usually your Foster Carers will be there, your Social Worker and Foster Careline. Sometimes your parents or other relatives might be there. They will all normally be asked to say what they want to happen in writing. This meeting is run by someone called an Independent Reviewing Officer.

Reviews look at your Care Plan, every child who is looked after must have a Care Plan which includes where you will live, what school you go to, who you can see and if there are extra things you need help with (health, homework, sport or music for instance). This is why it is important for you attend your Review whenever possible.

## School

Every effort will be made for you to continue attending the same school. Carers have a responsibility to support and guide you with your education and will encourage you to attend school regularly. They will keep in touch with your school and may go to Parent's Evenings or School Open Days.

Whilst you are living away from home, your Teacher, Carer and Social Worker will sit down with you to make sure you are getting help (if you need it) in school. If you are having any problems or getting bullied in or out of school you must tell someone about this - your Foster Carers, Teacher or Social Worker.



## Contact

You will normally have some contact with your parents, or other members of your birth family, such as brothers and sisters, or grandparents. This may be 'indirect', that is letters or telephone calls or 'direct', that is you got to see them, or they come to see you.

## Information

Your Foster Carers will be keeping a written record, which will include all the important things, good and bad, which happen to you.

## Birthdays, Pocket Money and Religious Festivals

You will get presents on your birthday and at religious festivals such as Christmas, Eid etc. You will also get pocket money and your Social Worker and Foster Carers will tell you how much you will get. You can use this money to spend on things you like, eg games, magazines etc. You can also save your pocket money and your Foster Carer will help you with this

## Leaving Care

Your Foster Carers will give you lots of support and guidance when leaving care, whether this being on to semi-independence or having a place of your own.

## OFSTED

OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) is the organisation which looks at what Foster Careline does. You can talk to them if you have problems with us and you cannot talk to your Social Worker about it.

## Complaints

If you feel sad or angry about something that has happened with your Foster Carer(s) or anyone at Foster Careline, you can, if you feel able, raise this with them.

Sometimes you may not feel this is possible, so you can contact Pauline, the Service Manager at Foster Careline, by telephoning her on 0151 378 6873, or you can e-mail Nicci, Director of Fostering, at [nicci.willock@fostercareline.com](mailto:nicci.willock@fostercareline.com). You can also contact your own social worker or OFSTED (details on page 12).

If you have any concerns that you want to talk about, you can contact your I.R.O. who's number can be found by asking your Foster Carer, your Social Worker or, if you prefer you can contact Foster Careline's Independent Reviewing Officer directly on: 07710 564336.

## Complaint's Procedure

### STEP 1

#### Tell someone you trust

- ✓ Tell them about your problem and what you wish to be done. (If there is no one you can tell, we can get you someone who can speak and complain for you)
- ✓ Or you can fill in the slip on the back of the Foster Careline Complaint's Leaflet (You will have been given a Complaint's Leaflet, but if you need another one, please ask Foster Careline)

### STEP 2

#### Not Sorted?

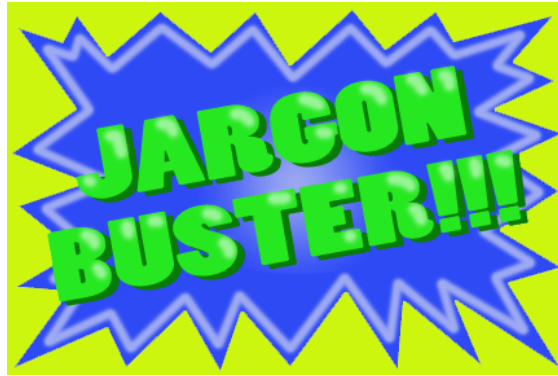
- ✓ We will get someone to investigate the complaint
- ✓ They will listen to everyone's story and report to Foster Careline on their findings

### STEP 3

#### Still Not Sorted?

- ✓ 3 people who do not work for Foster Careline will check over the **Step 2** investigation to make sure it was fair and thorough





## **Accommodated**

Some children in care are 'accommodated', that is their parents have agreed for them to be looked after, and still make the important decision about medical treatment, schools etc.

## **Advocacy**

This is going to talk to someone privately, so you can say what you think and try to help with any worries or problems that you have.

## **Care Order**

Some children are under a Care Order made by a court and in this case the Social Worker, for the Local Authority, and their managers have Parental Responsibility, that is they can make decisions about medical treatment, schooling etc. They will normally consult or at least inform your parents about any decisions they make.

## **Guardian**

If your parents and the Local Authority are in court, deciding what will happen to you, the court will appoint a Guardian who has the job of representing your interests in the court.

Among other things, they will appoint a lawyer to put forward your case in the court. They will seek your wishes and feelings, but may not agree with them, if they think it is not in your best interest.

## **Life Story Work**

This is important information about your history and that of your family, which will include pictures and sometimes important documents. It will help you understand what has happened to you in the past, and who has looked after you and why things changed.

## **Local Authority**

Every Child who is in care, is the responsibility of a specific town, or city or county - say Liverpool, Sefton, Warrington, Wirral, Denbighshire, Manchester or Trafford. They will make sure you have an allocated Social Worker, who is responsible for making sure that the things in your Care Plan happen.

## Personal Education Plan (PEP)

This is the plan for you to achieve all the things you are able to achieve at school.

## Statutory Medical

Your Social Worker will arrange for you to have regular medical checks, which will cover weight, height and other health checks, about once a year.

## Important Numbers

Social Worker at Foster Careline:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

(please leave a message if not available)

Your Local Authority Social Worker:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

OFSTED is the organisation which looks at what Foster Careline does. You can talk to them if you have problems with us and you cannot talk to your Social Worker about it. They can be contacted on **0300 123 1231**

Email: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Anne Longfield OBE

The Office of the Children's Commissioner

Sanctuary Buildings

20 Great Smith St

London

SW1P 3BT

Telephone: 0800 5280731

**Help at Hand Advice Service for Children Looked After:**

**(Freephone) 0800 528 0731**

**National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)**

**(Freephone) 0800 61 61 01**

**Child Line**

**(Freephone) 0800 1111**

**Drugs Helpline (FRANK)**

**(Freephone) 0800 77 66**