

# Foster Care Charter



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## **The purpose of the Fostering Charter is:**

- to reinforce open and honest partnership working between foster carers, children's social workers and the fostering service.
- to ensure foster carers are supported to care for Derbyshire Children in Care to be the 'best they can be'.

# 1. What you can expect us to do for you

## We will:

1. Ensure you have your own supervising social worker who will provide supervision, support, guidance, advice and information to you and your family on a regular basis. The frequency of these visits will be agreed with you at least annually.
2. Offer comprehensive training opportunities and maintain a commitment to ensure that you have the skills to care for your foster child as well as to develop as a foster carer and further your fostering career.
3. Pay you on time and give you information about any financial support, allowances and fees. Your supervising social worker will review your payments at a minimum of annually or at the beginning or end of a placement.
4. Provide you with a fostering handbook which includes the policies, procedures and information about being a foster carer in Derbyshire.
5. We will make sure you have what you need, including equipment, professional support and any other necessary resource to care for your foster child.



6. For full time placements DCC will make every effort to meet your needs for short breaks, as some foster carers have told us that this will enable placements to continue. However this will be done within the constraints of our available resources and considering the needs of the young person you are caring for.
7. Provide opportunities for you to attend local fostering support groups with other fostering families which are to offer foster carers specific training and an opportunity to meet socially with other foster parents.
8. Communicate regular updates about the service via newsletters, events and our website.
9. In the event of difficulties with either your supervising social worker or the child/children's social worker, we will provide an independent advocate who will listen to you, seek to understand your situation and support you to enable any difficulties to be resolved.



## 2. How we will work with you in caring for children/young people

### We will:

1. Treat you as a valued member of the 'team around the child' in respect of the young person in placed with you. You will be fully involved in all meetings and your views and knowledge will be sought, listened to and respected. You will be part of decisions made about the young person.
2. Ensure that you know who is involved in the team supporting the young person and that you understand your own role in that team and the roles of the other people involved. We will ensure that you have the information and the skills to record the young person's stay with you using logs and life story recording. We will ensure that you know what information you can share with whom.
3. Authorise you to make everyday decisions about your young person whilst in your care and this will be confirmed in writing. We will also confirm in writing who is responsible for what with regard to the care of the young person.
4. Whenever possible organise a planning meeting which will take place prior to the young person being placed in your care. At this planning meeting we will:



- a) Ensure that you have as much information as we are able to share with you about the young person, the young person's history and care plan.
- b) Ensure that all finances and all other resources necessary are in place to enable you to care for the young person.
- c) Ensure that you are clear about the roles and responsibilities of the key professionals involved with the young person in your care. We will review this whenever additional professionals become involved.
- d) Ensure that you know how to access support out of office hours should this be required and that you understand what can be provided by Derbyshire's out-of-hours social work team. A contact sheet will be provided with all necessary telephone numbers.

## 3. What we will expect from you

### You will:

1. Provide a safe, happy, secure and stable home.
2. Be a positive role model, valuing diversity and respect the young person's background.
3. Participate as part of the 'team around the child' to promote the young person's physical, emotional and educational development. This will include being a strong advocate for the child helping them to access whatever support that they need.

4. Fully support and encourage the young person's educational efforts and celebrate their achievements.
5. Attend relevant training courses using the skills gained to make a positive impact on the young person and to help them to reach their full potential.
6. Carry out your role as a foster carer following all relevant guidance as set out in your handbook.
7. Use the guidance in the handbook and from your supervising social worker to keep concise and full logs which reflects the child's life-experience with you.
8. Your supervising social worker will review this charter with you at least annually and prior to your annual review. This will help to ensure that we are all meeting the commitments we are making in signing this charter in order to jointly deliver the best service we can to the children in the care of Derbyshire County Council.

## Agreed by:

Foster carer/s

Children's social worker

Supervising social worker

Date





Call Derbyshire for free  
**0800 083 77 44**  
**[derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering)**



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