

Support and Guidance

Family Placement Worker

As a foster carer you will have your own social worker, called a family placement worker, who will **visit** your family **regularly**.

They can offer you **advice** and will be available to **talk to you** about any problems you may encounter in your role as a foster carer.

Contact with your family placement worker will be the main form of supervision and support you will receive.

When you start fostering a supervision agreement will be drawn up with your family placement worker which will detail how, when and where supervision will take place, based on your needs and expectations.

Your family placement worker will visit you at least **once every month** but you will be able to discuss and agree with them if you feel you need these visits to be more frequent.

The child's social worker

Any child placed with you will have a social worker whose role is to work with parents and foster carers in **planning for the child**.

This social worker has overall responsibility for the child. The child's social worker will also make visits to your home.

Practical assistance

Assistance can be given if you need **equipment** or **furniture** to look after a child in your home.

24-hour support line

We maintain a 24-hour support line for foster carers. As an approved foster carer you will be given the number for this.

By phoning the support line you can speak to a family placement worker who will be able to provide the **advice** and **guidance** you may need.



Support groups

There are a number of foster carer support groups meeting **throughout Aberdeenshire**.

The support groups meet at regular intervals and a range of social events are held throughout the year which may include a summer picnic or an evening meal for carers.

All carers are encouraged to attend their local support group and take advantage of the opportunity to **share experiences** and keep **informed of developments** affecting foster carers in Aberdeenshire. These meetings are also an excellent chance to get **training** and **share information** with others.

Foster care newsletter

As an approved foster carer you will receive a **regular newsletter**.

This will **keep you up-to-date** with what's been happening and inform you about any **future developments**.

Foster carer review

It is our responsibility to review all foster carers annually after their initial approval. The function of the foster carer review is

- to assess how foster carers and their families are **coping with the task**
- to look at and discuss any **changes** in your personal or family situation
- to **review** your ability to provide care for any child or young person placed with you

It is also an opportunity for you to **share your views** and assess whether you have been receiving a good service from us in your task of caring for children and young people.

We highly value the work undertaken by foster carers and, as well as allowing discussion of any difficulties that have arisen, the review is an opportunity to **acknowledge your achievements**.



The Fostering Network

The Fostering Network provide an independent service for foster carers to obtain **advice** and **guidance** on the service they are receiving.

We purchase individual membership of The Fostering Network for all our foster carers.

Support group for sons and daughters of foster carers

We recognise that the children of foster carers can also benefit from some support so we organise various activities to help them.

Your foster carer training will include a **workshop** for your children. This workshop will help them **understand** the **issues** they may experience when children in need of care come to live with them.

There is also a regular children's **newsletter** and **groups** are run during the summer for foster carer's children who are aged between 5 and 16.

