

Allegations Toolkit

Having an allegation made against you can be an enormous shock and even the most experienced foster carers can find it devastating.

Research has found that foster carers who are prepared for this eventuality often cope better, so our tool kit (top tips) for being prepared are found in the table below.

Toolkit for Foster Carers	
<p>Have a Safer Care Policy and regularly update this with any significant changes, in consultation with your supervising social worker.</p> <p>Talk to your own children and extended family members about allegations and safer caring.</p> <p>Take part in all training that covers allegations including Safer Care, Child Protection, Record Keeping, De-escalation training</p> <p>Keep detailed foster carer diary recordings, especially regarding any incidents of concern or significant events. Ensure these are read by your supervising social worker and shared with the child's social worker too.</p> <p>Ensure any marks or bruises on the child are always recorded (consider use of body map picture) and reported.</p> <p>Immediately report (by phone, not just email), any serious incidents, arguments or altercations with or about a child in your care.</p> <p>Ensure you have a risk assessment for each child in placement and make sure it's updated when necessary.</p> <p>When considering a new placement of a child check whether any previous allegations have been made by the child, if this issue has not been raised.</p> <p>Advocate: Foster carers subject to an Allegation or Standards of Care Investigation have a right to an independent advocate -ask your supervising social worker for details.</p>	<p>Make a note of who to contact in the event of an allegation and their contact details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Child's social worker Your Supervising Social Worker and make sure adult members of the household know where these are. <p>West Sussex Has an Out of hours support OOH team (Tel: 03302226664) if you need to report an incident outside office hours or are experiencing serious difficulties with a child's behaviours and need urgent advice.</p> <p>Build a good local support network which includes other foster carers and close family members and friends.</p> <p>Join one of the West Sussex foster carers' support groups.</p> <p>Fostering Network: Keep your Fostering Network membership details, helpline, and telephone number to hand. https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/advice-information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members' helpline: 020 7401 9582 from 10 am - 3pm, Monday to Friday. Legal helpline: 24-hour for expert advice on allegations and help with any legal queries on 01384 885734. Stress support service: a completely confidential stress support service on 01384 885734(ask to be put through to the stress helpline)