

**Foster Carer Workshop**

Proposed date: TBC, April 2022

Proposed venue: TBC (exploring English Rivieria Centre and other options)

Proposed time: 10am-2pm

Purpose: a workshop which focuses on the views of fostering families in respect of recruitment, retention, support and the Corporate Parenting Offer, to identify improvements to Torbay Fostering Service and provide an opportunity for direct participation and consultation.

Structure of the workshop

10am-10.20am: Welcome speech (by Anne-Marie, Cllr Steve Darling and Nancy Meehan)?

10.20am-10.50am: Break out groups

ROTATE

10.50am-11.20am: Break out groups

11.20am-11.50am: LUNCH and informal discussions

ROTATE

11.50am-12.20pm: Break out groups

ROTATE

12.20pm-12.50pm: Break out groups

12.50pm-1pm: Closing and next steps (Becky Thompson, HOS)?

Break out group one (facilitated by Net Solomon): **fostering recruitment and the Corporate Parenting Offer to fostering families**.

*What are fostering families’ views on Torbay’s recruitment strategy? What works in terms of fostering recruitment? Do fostering families have any other views about how we could improve our recruitment approach? Does the Corporate Parenting Offer for fostering families make a difference? What else would fostering families benefit from as part of this offer?*

Break out group two (facilitated by Vanessa Maguire): **training and continued professional development**.

*What are fostering families’ views on the training provided during assessment and approval? What are their views on the basic training offer? Should there be an advanced (three year plus) training offer and what should this look like? How supported do fostering families feel in terms of further development opportunities such as parent and child fostering?*

Break out group two: **support for fostering families, communication and joint working.**

*How supported to Torbay fostering families feel? What support is most valuable and most effective? What are the gaps in terms of foster carer support and how could these be addressed? What contributes to fostering families feeling part of the team around the child? What can be the barriers to this joint approach? How could be forge more robust relationships between fostering families, supervising social workers and children’s social workers?*

Break out group four (facilitated by Becky Thompson): **fostering adolescents.**

*What are the barriers to fostering adolescents? What could be done to increase fostering families and their confidence in offering placements to adolescents? What are some of the perceived benefits and challenges? How could these be overcome? What would an effective recruitment strategy look like, in terms of attracting fostering families who would offer placements for adolescents?*