

Guidance on Foster carer profiles June 2020:

The purpose of the foster carer profile is to provide up to date information and details of the carer's household, skills, interests, family and locality to the Placement Finding Team, fostering teams and the Child(rens) social worker for the purpose of family finding and matching.

The use of profiles is considered standard practice for fostering agencies.

The profile is significant as it captures important aspects of the Foster carers and their potential to meet the needs of children at a glance, bringing them to life. The profile should enable the reader to quickly establish whether this match could be considered further and therefore avoid full and lengthy documents such as the Form F being sent out too early in the matching process.

It is recommended that:

- The completed foster carer profile be available to panel as part of the initial approval of the foster carer(s) or be completed by the foster carer(s) and agreed by the assessing social worker during ratification. [This should be given to the fostering team SSW prior to handover.](#)
- To be purposeful and relevant; the profile is considered a live document and is updated with the annual review and whenever there is a significant change: This could be in relation to training, change of occupancy, moving home, transitions of children, support with contact, therapeutic parenting and working with birth parents.
- The profile will also support the foster carers in evidencing their skill level and be part of their portfolio.
- The Supervising social worker will support the foster carer(s) in producing a good quality profile and that they will offer advice and guidance to the foster carer to ensure their experience, skills and matching criteria are clear and evident.
- The main photo on the profile is considered with care; that it is up to date, colourful, relaxed, not staged and child friendly.

Issues around confidentiality:

Please be mindful to:

- Use first names only on the profile
- State the geographical area the foster carers live and not the full address
- No names of foster children already living with the foster family or other details about these children, including photographs. [Please just state number of children \(and if siblings\), gender, age, ethnicity and type of placement \(short-term/permanent/staying put/supported lodgings etc\)](#)
- This information may be shared with the child verbally by the social worker or as a written document if appropriate.
- A redacted may be shared with birth families if appropriate and after discussion with legal; see below:

[If the profile is requested as part of a court bundle, the legal advice on this matter \(June 2020\) is that although this request is rare, in a circumstance where the Local Authority are directed to or feel it's in the child's best interest to send the profile, then the profile is](#)

redacted; that is the surname taken out and any other confidential details, including location and photos.