

Annual Foster Care Review Issues Resolutions - Expectations of Foster Carer Reviewing Officer (FCRO):

It is intrinsic in the role of Foster Carer Reviewing Officer (FCRO) that they seek to challenge where there are issues that need addressing and they seek to resolve problems.

The FCRO should exercise their discretion and judgement when considering the level at which they are challenging and whether they are attempting to resolve this as part of the informal or formal process. There is however an expectation that challenge and resolution will be sought in the following situations.

Examples of issues that should be addressed through the FCRO issues resolution process (please note that this is not a definitive list):

Annual Foster Carer Reviews:

- Preparation for the Annual Foster Carer Review (e.g. late, non-completion/poor quality supervising social worker report).
- Insufficient evidence of the child's voice & inclusion within supervising social workers report.

- Non completion of recommended actions / failure to meet timescales. (If there is clear evidence that it negatively impacts on the child/placement).
- FCRO not notified of significant event or change of circumstances in the fostering household – need for early review not identified.
- No allocated supervising social worker.
- Concern about support provided to foster carer/s.
- DBS checks not completed for foster carer, back up carer/s and adult members of the fostering household.
- Foster Carer Medicals not being completed within statutory timescales.
- Health and Safety Checks not completed within statutory timescales including pet/dog assessments.
- Statutory visits not being completed including unannounced by the supervising social worker.
- Individual (child) safer care plans not update annually.
- Mandatory Foster Carer Training not provided.
- Concern around the suitability of the placement to meet the child's needs.
- Concerns around placement matching and risk assessments.
- Standards of care concerns.
- Schedule 7 events without notification.
- Unregulated placements.
- Concern around professional practice (not on carers' record).