

**The Children’s Safeguarding Standards Unit and the Fostering Service**

**Foster Carer / Connected Carers Review Procedure**

**Version control**

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| **Version**  | **Launch Date**  | **Review Date**  |
| Version 2  | 22nd January 2024 | 22nd January 2025 |

**Introduction**

In Newcastle Local Authority Foster Carer Reviews are undertaken on behalf of the Authority by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). There are 2 dedicated Full Time IROs who undertake the Foster Carer Reviews and other IROs may also undertake a few Foster Carer Reviews in a year.

This procedure was written by the Children’s Safeguarding Standards Unit and the Fostering Service. The terms ‘foster carer’ / ‘carer’ and ‘connected carer’ are used throughout this procedure. The procedure applies equally to foster and connected carers and carers who provide respite.

**1. Frequency of Foster Carer Reviews**

Formal reviews of foster carers / connected carers will take place at least annually.

Reviews will take place more frequently or may be brought forward in the event of a significant change in circumstances of a foster carer, for example, where there have been changes to the household, if a child’s plan progresses to ‘staying put’ or following a life changing event such as a divorce, pregnancy, adoption of a child or a bereavement. Reviews may be brought forward when there are concerns about the Standards of Care provided by the foster carer because of a complaint or allegation.

Reviews will be brought forward following [placement disruptions](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_place_disrup_meet.html). Additional or brought forward reviews will be requested by the Supervising Social Worker (SSW) for the foster carer. Children’s Safeguarding Standards Unit (CSSU) Business Support Team will liaise with the relevant IRO to identify a time and date.

As well as formal reviews, there will be regular dialogue and feedback between the SSW and the foster carer during monthly supervision sessions.

**2. Booking / Arranging a first or subsequent Foster Carer Review**

The fostering service will ensure newly approved foster carers are booked in with the Children’s Safeguarding Standards Unit (CSSU) Business Support Team. The Fostering Panel administrator is responsible for updating CSSU once the Carers approval has been ratified.

At the point of booking in for a first review each carer will be allocated to one of the dedicated Foster Carer Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO). CSSU Business Support will agree a date for the review matched against the Supervising Social Worker’s (SSW) and IRO availability. The SSW will confirm the date with the foster carer and will liaise with CSSU should the date need to be amended.

The first reviews for all foster carers will, after completion, be presented back to fostering panel for a decision regarding the reapproval by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). This will be within 20 working days from the Fostering Manager completing the final part of report to be heard at Panel.

Dates for second and subsequent reviews will be agreed between all parties at the end of the ‘current’ review. Relevant parties will liaise to rearrange dates as required, although every effort should be made to maintain the agreed date. If the meeting date needs to be rearranged and it can be rearranged within timescales the Fostering Team Manager and IRO can agree the new date. If rearranging the meeting would lead to the review going out of timescales this can only be done with the prior permission of the Service Manager for both the fostering service and CSSU or their deputies and booked in by CSSU Business Support.

In advance of the agreed date, CSSU Business Support will send an appointment and an email to the foster carer 6 weeks before the FCR date, enclosing a report for the foster carer to complete and one for the carers’ own children if applicable. These reports will be discussed in the FC’s supervision with their SSW 1 month before the review. The SSW will ensure that the report is uploaded to the carer’s record and emailed at least 1 week before the FCR to the IRO.

The appointment email will include the name, email address and telephone number of the IRO who will be chairing the FCR. Foster carers can contact the IRO in advance of the review to discuss the review and identify any areas of concern.

**2.1 Changing agreed Review Dates**

Changing agreed review dates can cause delay and difficulty for all parties. As such, agreed review dates should only be changed when this is essential and cannot be avoided. Service Manager Permission is required to change a review date and the views of all parties should be established before the change is agreed and the new date should also be agreed with the carer.

**3. Preparation before the Review**

The SSW opens the Review Form on CareFirst in preparation for the FCR. It will be completed by the SSW and then assigned to the Fostering Team Manager for their management oversight and views. The Fostering Manager will complete their section and assign to the IRO 5 working days before the review to allow them to prepare. Once the FCR has been held the IRO has 20 working days to complete and reassign the report to the Fostering Team Manager. The report will be considered by the Fostering Team Manager before being shared by the SSW with the carer. The Fostering Team Manager may ask the SSW to hold further discussion with the carer to ensure their views and understanding of the recommendations are clear.

Once the SSW review report has been completed, the SSW must reassign this report to, the fostering Team Manager 10 working days before the review, who will then add comments and provide management oversight prior to the report being shared with the carer.

Prior to the formal review, the SSW will share with the foster carer a copy of their initial review report. This should be done in person or by such means as to enable the report to be discussed between the SSW and the foster carer. The SSW must capture how the foster carer has met the fostering standards. The SSW and Fostering Team Manager will aim to have their reports available 5 working days before the review but will in all cases ensure review reports are available to the IRO and the foster carers 2 working days prior to the review.

The SSW will also, in advance of the review encourage and support the foster carer, and the carers’ own children, to complete the reports templates sent to them by CSSU. It is important that the views of the carer and their children are captured and made available before the review meeting.

If the Fostering Service is recommending a change in the carer’s approval, the foster carer must complete the written consent form which confirms their agreement to the change and the placement support statement.

CSSU Business Support will send requests to complete a report for the review to all placing social workers who are currently working with children residing with the foster carer and who have worked with children who were placed with the foster carers since the last Review up to 4 weeks in advance. These reports must be completed 2 weeks prior to the Review to allow time for these to be considered by the SSW and to be shared with the carer. It is the placing social workers responsibility to share their reports with the carer in advance of the FCR.

The placing social worker will complete their SW report whenever a child moves placement and forward this to the allocated IRO / SSW for inclusion in the next review. This will help to obtain the SW’s views before they e.g. leave / while the information is still fresh. If concerns have been raised the IRO / SSW will be able to discuss whether a brought forward review / further action is needed

Understanding the views of children placed with the carers, both currently and over the last year is an essential part of the review process. These views must be understood and used to inform the SSW report and the final review report regarding continued suitability. It is expected that these views will be captured in placing SW reports, Child in Care Reviews and via MOMO. This will require the IRO to review the child’s file.

Any concerns will be discussed with the carer at the time they are raised and details of the concerns, recommendations made and any progress updates should be included in the SW and SSWs reports. The carer must be fully aware of any such concerns in advance of the review. The carer must be supported to contact the IRO in advance of the review to discuss any concerns identified. It will be necessary for the Placing SW to attend the review where concerns are highlighted.

**Non-Engagement with the Foster Carer Review process**

A review of a foster carer’s approval must take place within a year of approval, and thereafter at intervals of no more than one year. This is not just set out in statutory guidance; it is a legal requirement (FSR Reg 28) which requires the service to seek and consider of the views of:

* the foster parent,
* any child placed with the foster parent (subject to the child’s age and understanding), and
* any placing authority which has, within the preceding year, placed a child with the foster parent.

It is therefore not a matter for a foster carer to choose whether the agency undertakes a review, as the agency is legally required to do this, though a foster carer could choose not to participate in a review or could choose to resign if they do not want their approval reviewed.

If the timing of a review falls at a particularly difficult time, such as a sudden bereavement, serious illness, during an investigation into an allegation etc. the fostering service will weigh up the situation on a case-by-case basis and will consider:

* whether it is feasible for the foster carer to participate in the review
* Whether reasonable adjustments can be made to support them attending such as holding the meeting virtually or the carers submitting a written

statement of their views

* If not, whether their views can be included using information from the case record
* what form the review should take
* If the review can reasonably be rescheduled

The service may decide to complete a desktop review to hold the situation and then schedule a further ‘in person’ review once the immediate crisis or situation is over. This may be combined with a decision not to place any further children until a full review is undertaken. This may not be ideal, but it will allow regulatory requirements to be met.

If it was agreed to hold a desk top review in these circumstances the views of the carers would still be required. If they are unwilling to submit their views they would be formally asked to do this in writing and a record will be made if the carer declines or does not engage with the process.

If a review is late for any reason, the delay will not impact the foster carer’s status, as they will continue to remain approved.

The fostering service aims to work in cooperation with its carers and the expectation is that all foster carers engage with and attend their annual reviews for their approval as foster carers to be consider and renewed.

The service will therefore attempt to engage foster carers at all stages of the process and document the efforts made within the FCR report.

There are no specific consequences in legislation if a foster carer chooses not to co-operate with the review process or attend a review meeting and it is up to the fostering service to establish how non-compliance with the review process is responded to. This would be assessed against the Foster Care Standards in terms of the carers unwillingness or failure to engage with the review process. The Local Authority could decide to hold a desk top review or go ahead with the live review without the carers if attempts to engage the carers are unsuccessful.

The Fostering Service and the relevant IRO must agree what action is to be taken and hold the review within a maximum of 30 working days of being made aware that the carers do not wish to engage with the review.

If the carer declines to engage, the Team Manager for the Foster Carers should contact the carers and explain:

* That the service will be undertaking a review
* the reasons for this
* any possible consequences and
* why it is so important for them to be involved

The carers should be given a 10-working day timescale to respond to this request and informed that the service will still need be make arrangements for the review to take place, regardless of their views.

The Team Manager will also need to consider whether a referral to the Foster Talk independent support service might help the carer to engage. Newcastle Local Authority commission Foster Talk to provide independent support and this could be an option to better engage the carers.

If the carer still refuses to cooperate with the review process, the Fostering Service will need to proceed with the review, using information from the case file including any information previously passed on by the carer.

The service will then send the carer a copy of the final report, asking for their comments and indicating that the service will need to refer the matter to the fostering panel for a recommendation with regards to making the decision on their continued approval.

The foster carer will be informed that they have 7 working days from the date they received the report to respond so there is no ambiguity about when they must act by.

It is essential for the Supervising Social Worker and Team Manager to document the key points of any communications with foster carers in these circumstances to ensure the service is:

* working in an open and transparent way
* documenting evidence of the services and carers actions and
* giving the foster carers time to digest what has been said so they can respond later if they so wish too.

**4. Formal Review Meeting**

The review will be chaired by the allocated IRO and be conducted as a meeting between the carer and SSW. The meeting may be held in the carer’s home or virtually via Microsoft Teams. How the meeting will take place will be agreed by the Foster Carer, SSW, and IRO.

Others, such as placing social workers, may be invited as required. The review meeting will follow the structure of the Foster Carer Review Chairs Report. It will include reviewing the carers’ Personal Professional Development Plan which should outline the carers’ training and developmental needs, compliance and how the carer meets the fostering standards as identified in the SSW’s report. If it is the carers’ first review, reference should be made to whether the carer has completed their Training, Support and Development standards (TSDs) within 12 months of approval (or for connected persons, 18 months of approval) as required. The review must also explore the foster carers’ views of the service and support provided as well as the appropriateness of placements made and evaluate the care provided by the foster carer. Any recommendations identified should be discussed at the time of the review and the foster carers views on the recommendations must be recorded. Any learning identified after the review must be shared in such a way as to ensure the carers understand the rationale and what is required.

It is essential that all necessary information is provided for the review in sufficient detail to support the decisions to be made. For example, a recommendation to change a carers approval will need to be supported by evidence that the carer is able to meet the requirements of the proposed approval category and any such recommendation must be endorsed by the Fostering Manager. Similarly, if there has been an identified concern about the standard of care provided, the details of this and how it was resolved along with a clear recommendation must be fully recorded in the submitted reports.

**5. Presentation to the Fostering Panel or Agency Decision Maker**

A report must be presented to the Fostering Panel on the foster carers’ first review for a recommendation and thereafter may be presented to the fostering panel if required.

For the carers’ who are having their first review the review reports and any relevant documentation will be presented to Panel by the SSW. This should be the first Panel date following the FCR being held and if Panel endorse the recommendation the reports go to the [Agency Decision Maker for final sign off.](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/pr_desg_man.html#agency_foster)

This could be necessary following significant events which have impacted on the fostering role and recommendations for consideration which the foster carer does not agree with, including the termination of the foster carers’ approval. This would also be necessary when an updated Disclosure and Barring Service check reveals a new concern about the foster carer or a member of the household.

Whether presented to the fostering panel or not, the report will be presented to the Agency Decision Maker for a decision as to whether the foster carer remains suitable to foster and whether the terms of approval remain appropriate. Where it has been presented to the fostering panel, the Agency Decision Maker will also consider the panel's recommendation.

**6. After the Fostering Review**

The foster carer will be informed in writing by the fostering service of the outcome of the review. The IRO’s review report will be sent to the Carer by Fostering Business support along with the new foster carer agreement.

A copy of the Review Form and a record of the outcome of the review will be retained on the foster carers’ case records.

Review outcomes should be made clear at the time of the meeting. The SSW will advise the placing social worker of the outcome of the review where this is appropriate. However, should the Foster Carer have any concerns about the outcome or record of the review s/he will discuss this with the Supervising Social Worker. Where necessary the Supervising Social worker will raise any issues with their managers with a view to seeking resolution.

Should there be any disagreement between the Fostering Service and the IRO about the outcome of a formal review the IRO will be informed of any decisions by the Fostering Team Manager which are not aligned to the review recommendations. This will allow the IRO opportunity to challenge any decisions made following the review and escalate these to CSSU and Fostering Service Managers or their equivalent for consideration if there needs to be any further action taken.

**7. Representations/Review Procedure**

**7.1 Proposal to Terminate Foster Carer's Approval**

Where, as a result of a review, the termination of a foster carer's approval is proposed, or a change of approval is recommended which the carer does not agree with, the case should be presented to the fostering panel. The fostering panel will then make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker. If the recommendation is for deregistration or to change approval without the carer’s consent and the Agency Decision Maker agrees, a Qualifying Determination will be issued by the Agency Decision Maker. Written notice of the Qualifying Determination with reasons will be sent to the foster carer within 7 days of the determination being made and the carer must be advised that if they wish to challenge the determination, they have the opportunity to make representations to the Agency or to request a review by an Independent Review Panel under the Independent Review Mechanism as set out in the [**Assessment and Approvals of Foster Carers Procedure, Representations / Independent Review Procedure**](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_ass_app_fost.html#representations_review).

If, for example, a carer refuses to engage with the Review process and a Qualifying Determination[[1]](#footnote-1) was made by the Agency Decision Maker following the Panel, and the foster carer applied to the Independent Review Mechanism[[2]](#footnote-2) (IRM), the foster carers lack of cooperation is something the IRM would need to take into consideration.

The foster carer will not have the right to request a review by an Independent Review Panel if they are regarded as disqualified as a result of a conviction or caution for a specified offence - see [**Persons Disqualified from Fostering Procedure**](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_pers_disq.html).

If the carer chooses to make representations to the Agency, these must be in writing and be received by the service within 28 calendar days from the date of Qualifying Determination letter. On receipt, the Agency Decision Maker will refer the case along with the carer’s written representations to the Fostering Panel to consider and to make a fresh recommendation. When the Agency Decision Maker refers a carer’s case to the Fostering Panel, the carer will be invited to attend the panel meeting to answer any questions the panel may have and may be accompanied by a friend or supporter. All relevant information will be contained in the IRO’s review report, and the IRO is not required to attend Fostering Panel.

The Agency Decision Maker will take the fresh recommendation into account when making the final decision. Written notice of the final decision, together with reasons, must then be sent to the foster carer within 7 working days of the decision.

If no written representations or notification of a request for a review are received within the period, confirmation of a final decision to terminate can be made and the Agency Decision will be sent to the carer.

Where the termination of the approval of a foster carer is being considered, plans for the termination of any current placement will also be required and made as appropriate.

**7.2 Proposal to Revise the Terms of the Foster Carer's Approval**

**7.2.1 Where the Foster Carer is in Agreement**

Where, it is proposed to revise the terms of the foster carer's approval, a support statement must be sent by the SSW to the foster carer setting out whether it is considered that the foster carer or members of their household (including any children placed there) may have additional support needs as a result of the proposed revision and, if so, how those needs will be met, and request the foster carer's agreement in writing with regard to the support statement and the proposed revision of their terms of approval.

Where the foster carer's written agreement is received, the decision to revise the terms of approval may be made immediately.

The Agency Decision Maker's decision in such circumstances is not a qualifying determination and the foster carer may not apply for an independent review of the decision by way of the independent review mechanism.

Foster carers must not be pressured to accept changes to their terms of approval.

**7.2.2 Where the Foster Carer is not in Agreement**

Where the foster carer does not agree in writing to the revision of their terms of approval, the Agency Decision Maker will make a Qualifying Determination which can be appealed as set out in [**Section 7.1 Proposal to Terminate Foster Carer's Approval**](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_review_fos_care.html#term) **will apply.**

**8. Updates on Checks**

Disclosure and Barring Service checks should be updated every 3 years and, if necessary, any changes or safeguarding issues will be discussed as soon as possible by the Supervising Social Worker and the Fostering Team Manager. This may take place in supervision or sooner if the matter is urgent. If any DBS checks highlight possible safeguarding issues child protection procedures will be followed and the matter may be referred to the LADO for consideration and an investigation may be necessary. DBS checks must take account of anyone over the age of 18 living in the household, including former children in care who have ‘stayed put’.

See [**Persons Disqualified from Fostering Procedure**](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_pers_disq.html)

Whilst there is no statutory time interval, as good practice medical information should also be updated at least every 3 years. The SSW must read all updated medical information for their carers, and in the event of any serious concerns about the foster carer’s health, discuss this as soon as possible with the Fostering Team Manager. This may take place in supervision or sooner if the matter is urgent.

**9. Resignation by Foster Carers**

A foster carer may give written notice at any time of their wish to resign from the role. Once written notice has been given, their approval will automatically be terminated 28 days after receipt of the notice. The foster carer cannot withdraw their notice once it has been received, nor can the Agency Decision Maker decline to accept the resignation. It must be made explicit to the FCs that if they resign this cannot be withdrawn.

Should a foster carer who has resigned subsequently wish to foster again, they will need to be assessed under the procedure for [**Assessment and Approvals of Foster Carers Procedure**](https://newcastlechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_ass_app_fost.html). There is no requirement for the fostering panel to be notified of resignations. The fostering service will note this and remove the foster carer from the services fostering register.

If the foster carer submits their resignation following a standards of care concern being raised or an allegation being made, the resignation should be sent to panel with an accompanying report detailing the concerns. This report should be shared with the carers before it is sent to panel, so they are given the opportunity to make comments.

The Fostering Service holds a Pre-Panel agenda meeting weekly which is attended by the Fostering Managers and the Panel Administrator and resignations, withdrawals and support carers assessments are discussed, confirmed, and noted by the Panel Administrator.

Following the resignation being presented to the Pre- Panel agenda meeting the CSSU must be informed by the Fostering Panel Administrator so they can end their relationship with the carer on the system.

**Appendix 1 - Flowchart**

**Appendix 2 -** **Foster Carer Review Report Template for Completion for their own Review**

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**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL**

**FOSTER CARER REVIEW REPORT FOR FOSTER CARER/S TO COMPLETE FOR THEIR REVIEW**

Newcastle City Council Fostering Service must undertake a foster carer review for each approved carer at intervals no longer than a year apart. This is undertaken by the Children’s Safeguarding Standards Unit on their behalf which makes the Review process more independent.

It is important that we understand what you think of being a foster carer over the last 12 months and we also have to do this by law [[3]](#footnote-3)

Please complete this template and your Supervising Social Worker will collect it from you when they visit you to share their report prior to your Review.

Where applicable your children have also been sent a form to help us understand how fostering affects them.

**Tell us about you**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Your name/s** | **Ethnic Origin** | **First Language** | **Religion** | **Date of Birth** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Foster Carer Address** |  |
| **Do you have a second home? *(Including caravans/ holiday homes)***  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fostering Registration date** | **Approval category and number of children** |
|  |  |

**Your Review**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Foster Carer Review date and time** |  |
| **Supervising Social Worker’s name** |  |

**Who else lives with you?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Other household members** | **DOB** | **Relationship to carer** | **Ethnic Origin** | **Education or employment** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**How have things have been since your last review?**

|  |
| --- |
| **What has gone well since your last review –** this could include something which you feel you may have helped the child achieve/succeed in doing, what has gone well for the child/children you look after, for you and your family in your fostering role etc |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **What has been challenging since your last review –** this could include issues about the child/children you look after, for you and your family in your fostering role etc. |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please comment on the support and supervision you receive from your Supervising Social Worker and the fostering service in general –** is there anything we do well and is there anything we could do differently? |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please comment on the support you receive from the social worker for the children in your care –** is there anything we do well and is there anything we could do differently? |
|  |

**Key Documents for the child/children you foster**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do you have all of the up-to-date documents you need for the child you look after?**  | **Yes/No**  |
| **Referral Information Record** |  |
| **Placement Information** |  |
| **Delegated authority form** |  |
| **Child’s Care plan** |  |
| **Child’s Health Needs Assessment** |  |
| **Copy of Child’s Educational Health Care Plan**  |  |
| **Contact/family time agreement** |  |
| **Child’s Medical Consent Form** |  |

**Key Documents a Foster Carer should have for their fostering role**

| **Do you have all of the up-to-date documents you need for your role?** | **Yes/No**  |
| --- | --- |
| **Copies of supervisory visits** |  |
| **Foster carer agreement** |  |
| **Copy of your last foster carer review** |  |
| **Foster Carer's recording sheets** |  |
| **Copy of complaints procedure** |  |
| **ID card** |  |
| **Foster Carer's Handbook** |  |
| **Relevant reading/training material** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Would you like to make any changes to your fostering registration, e.g., age range of children, increasing or decreasing number of children?** |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do you know how to make a compliment, comment, or complaint?** |  |

**Name (Foster Carer 1):**

**Signature**:

**Date:**

**Name (Foster Carer 2):**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Appendix 3 – Report Template for Foster Carer’s Children under 11 years (if appropriate) to complete for their parents’ review**

 What I think about being part of a

family that fosters

My Name is

My age is

My parents are called

Date

**About this form - We want to know what you think about being a child who is part of a family that fosters. Please tell us what you think - you can use pictures, words, or other things like stickers to share what you think.**

**Note to the Mum’s or Dad’s - If support is needed, please ask your supervising social worker to help complete this report. Wherever possible, it should be completed by the child in their own words with a separate form for each of your children please. **

What I think about being part of a

family that fosters

What has not been so easy about being part of a family that fosters?

What I like about being part of a family who fosters? **😊**

 What words or feelings best describe being part of a family that fosters

**Worried** **Nice *Great* ** Loud **Safe **

**New Unsure** *Scary*

 BUSY Comfortable ****

 ** ExcitingWeird**

**Strange SAD** Happy ** *Wonderful***

 Lovely

**😊** T**HANK YOU FOR SHARING WHAT YOU THINK WITH US! 😊**

**Appendix 4 – Report Template for Foster Carer’s children aged 11 years and older**

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**Foster Carer Annual Review – Sons and Daughter template for children aged 11 years and over.**

**Your views about being part of a family who foster other children and young people are important. Please complete the questions below to share what the last year has been like for you as part of a family who foster.**

**Note to parents - If support is needed please ask your supervising social worker to help complete this report. Wherever possible, it should be completed by the child in their own words with a separate form for each of your children please.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What is your name?**  |  |
| **How old are you?** |  |
| **What are your parents called? (Foster Carer/s Name(s)**  |  |
| **Who helps your parents to foster? (Supervising Social Worker name)** |  |
| **When did you fill in this form?** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Can you tell us what you enjoy about being part of a family that fosters children?** |
|  |
| **Can you tell us about any things that haven’t been so easy about being part of a family that fosters?** |
|  |
| **Do you meet up with any other children whose parents are foster carers?** | Yes/No |
| **If you don’t, would you like to?**  | Yes/No |

|  |
| --- |
| Is there anything else that you want to share about being part of a foster family? |
|  |

**THANK YOU FOR SHARING WHAT YOU THINK WITH US!**

**Appendix 5 – Report Template for child in care of foster carers at time of FCR aged under 11 years**

What I think about living with my

Foster Carers

My Name is

My age is

My foster carers is/are called

**About this form - We want to know what you think about being a child who lives with foster carers. Please tell us what you think - you can use pictures, words, or other things like stickers to share what you think.**

**Note to the child’s social worker and foster carers - If support is needed, please ask your supervising social worker to help complete this report. Wherever possible, it should be completed by the child in their own words with a separate form for each of your children please.**  ****

Date

What I think about living with my

Foster Carers

What has not been so easy about being part of a foster family?

What I like about living with my foster carers? **😊**

 What words or feelings best describe

living with my Foster Carers

  **Happy**  ****

 ***Great*** ExcitingLovely

 **Worried**  **Nice Safe** FUN *Scary*

 ***Sad***  **New Unsure** 

 **Funny**   **Strange** **

Comfortable Loud Busy**Weird**



**THANK YOU FOR SHARING WHAT YOU THINK WITH US!**

**😊 😊 😊**

**Appendix 6 - Report Template for child in care of foster carers at time of FCR aged over 11 years.**

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**Foster Carer Annual Review – Child in our Care aged 11 years and older.**

**Your views about being a child or young person who lives with foster carers is important. Please complete the questions below to share what you like about living with your carers and what you would like to change if you could over the last year.**

**Note to the child/young person’s social worker and foster carers - If support is needed please ask your supervising social worker to help complete this report. Wherever possible, it should be completed by the child in their own words with a separate form for each of your children please.**

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| **What is your name?**  |  |
| **How old are you?** |  |
| **What are your Foster Carer/s called?**  |  |
| **Who helps your foster carers to foster? (Supervising Social Worker name)** |  |
| **When did you fill in this form?** |  |

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| **Can you tell us what you enjoy about living with your carers?**  |
|   |
| **Can you tell us about any things that haven’t been so easy about fostering?** |
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| **If you were worried or unhappy about fostering or your carers who would you talk to?** |
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| **Do you meet up with any other children who are fostered?****If you don’t, would you like to?**  | Yes/NoYes/No |
| **Do you know what the Voices and Influence Group is?****If no, do you want to find out?** | Yes/NoYes/No |
| **Have you needed help filling in this form?****If yes who has helped you?**  | Yes/No |

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| **Is there anything else you would like to say about being fostered and what it means to you?** |
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**THANK YOU FOR SHARING WHAT YOU THINK WITH US!**

1. Qualifying determinations are made where an agency is proposing not to approve an individual as a foster carer, or to terminate approval or make a change to the foster carer's terms of approval **without the foster carers written consent.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Independent Reviewing Mechanism (IRM) operates the process by which prospective or approved foster carers, can seek **an independent review** of a ‘qualifying determination’ made by a fostering service provider [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. When undertaking a review, the fostering service needs to ensure that they “make enquires and obtain such information as it considers necessary in order to review whether the person continues to be suitable to act as a foster parent and his/her household continues to be suitable”. Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)