

Fostering Service Privacy Notice

Our core data protection obligations and commitments are set out in the Council's Corporate Privacy Notice and on our website at [Data Protection – Privacy Notice](#).

This notice provides additional privacy information for individuals who engage with the Fostering Service as foster carers or as individuals being assessed as prospective foster carers.

Purpose(s)

We collect your personal information for the following purpose(s):

- To respond to enquiries from members of the public considering whether to apply to be a foster carer;
- To process the applications of potential foster carers and assess their suitability;
- For the ongoing assessment of foster carers;
- To assist foster carers with using the service;
- To match foster carers with children who require foster placements;
- To monitor the progress and stability of placements, to safeguard and support children;
- To provide ongoing support, advice and training to foster carers;
- To assess and evaluate our service and measure the effectiveness of the service;
- To inform future service planning and the commissioning of services;
- To ensure that foster carers receive the correct payments.

Categories of Personal Data

In order to carry out these purposes we collect and obtain:

- Name;
- Date of birth/age;
- Address;
- Contact details (telephone number(s), email address);
- Gender;
- Family member's details (including name, Date of Birth/age, address and contact details), in respect of any other adult members of the household, any children in the family, whether or not members of the household, and any other children in the household;
- Family composition/relationship information/support network;
- Previous relationships;
- Language and Interpreter requirements;
- Employment information;
- Financial information;
- Details of other agencies involved;
- Identification document details, such as passport number, National Insurance Number, Port reference number, Home Office reference etc.;
- Any other information as set out within and required by the Foster Services (England) Regulations 2011.

Special Category Data

We may also collect special category personal data that may include:

- Physical and mental Health data (for example, any disabilities/additional needs, illnesses, mental health problems and any support you receive in relation to these physical and mental health factors);
- Racial or ethnic origin;
- Religious or philosophical beliefs; and
- Criminal history, including convictions and other offence data (if applicable).

Legal Basis for Processing

We collect and use your personal information because:

- It is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation or statutory function of the Council under GDPR Article 6(1)(c). Such legal obligations and statutory functions are as set out in, but not limited to:
 - Children Act 1989;
 - Children Act 2004;
 - Children's and Families Act 2014;
 - Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011;
- It is necessary under GDPR Article 6(1)(e) for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council; or
- You have given your consent under GDPR Article 6(1)(a).

If you fail to provide certain information when requested, we may not be able to provide the service to you or we may be prevented from complying with our legal obligations.

We also collect special category under GDPR Article 9(2)(g) for reasons of substantial public interest, GDPR Article 9(2)(h) for provision of social care, and, if relevant, personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences to perform our public task as required by law.

Exceptionally, information may also be shared if it is necessary to protect individuals from harm, or because a serious crime has, or maybe, committed. Various pieces of legislation set out the circumstances in which organisations are permitted, or required, to do this. These include, but are not limited to, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

Where has your personal information come from?

We will obtain your information from:

- Yourself;
- Health services;
- Police;
- Private fostering agencies/external fostering recruitment agencies;
- Central Government;
- Other Local Authorities.

Who will we share your information with?

We may collect and share personal information about you with the following types of organisations:

- Other Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Services e.g. Children and Adult Social Services;
- Safeguarding agencies and partnerships;
- Commissioned partners (e.g. a charity or other organisation that we ask to provide services on our behalf) and other voluntary and private sector organisations who assist in delivering our service;
- Healthcare partners;
- Private fostering agencies and fostering recruitment agencies/partners;
- Schools, education providers and specialist teachers;
- Early education and childcare providers, such as nurseries and pre-schools;
- Greater Manchester Police (and other Police forces where appropriate);
- Central Government Departments (e.g. Department for Education (DfE), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP));
- Ofsted;
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA);
- Other Local Authorities;
- Reference providers.

We may share information with the organisations listed above in order to provide a service to you or where we are required to do so by law, to safeguard public safety, and in risk of harm or emergency situations.

How long we will keep your data for and why?

We will only retain information for as long as it is necessary to provide services to you and/or for as long as required by us in order to comply with statutory retention periods.

Transferring data outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Your information is not processed outside of the European Economic Area.

Your rights

Information about exercising your rights can be found on the council's website [Exercising Your Individual Rights](#).

Security

We use appropriate technical, organisational and administrative security measures to protect any information we hold in our records from loss, misuse, and unauthorised access, disclosure, alteration and destruction. We have written procedures and policies, which are regularly audited, and the audits are reviewed at senior level.

Data Protection Officer

If you have any questions or concerns about how we use your personal information, please contact the Data Protection Officer at information.governance@tameside.gov.uk or by calling 0161 342 8355.

Automated Decisions

For this service, all the decisions we make about you involve human intervention.

Updates to Privacy Notice

We may update or revise this Privacy Notice at any time so please refer to the version published on our website for the most up to date details on our [Data Protection page](#).