



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO FOSTER CARE





Hello

If you are reading this booklet then you will be moving in with foster carers or already living with some. This booklet is to help explain what this means for you.

What is foster care?

Sometimes children can't live with their own families for lots of different reasons, but this is not your fault or because of anything you have done. When this happens a Social Worker will make plans for someone else to take care of you.

What is a Social Worker?

A Social Worker is a grown up who is there to help you and your family sort out problems. Your Social Worker will try to do what is best for you.

They will be making decisions about lots of things. It is important that you tell them how you feel and what you want.

Who are foster carers?

Foster Carers are grown ups who are really good at looking after children like you. They live in ordinary houses and flats in Tameside and nearby.

Sometimes there might be one grown up, sometimes two. There might be other children or pets in the house or you might just have your Foster Carer all to yourself.



What do Foster Carers do?

- Keep you safe.
- Take you to school.
- Feed you.
- Buy you clothes.
- Make sure you have fun things to do.
- Help you with your worries or problems.
- Help you find out what the plans are for you and your family.
- Help you to tell people what you want to happen and how you are feeling.

How long will I stay?

Some children stay for a night or 2 other children stay for longer. This depends on what is happening for you and your family. How long you stay is decided by your Social Worker, your parents, you and possibly a judge.

What about my family?

Sometimes you or your Social Worker might not think it is a good idea to see your family. You can chat with them about this. If they can, your foster family will help with visits, telephone calls or letters so that you can stay in touch with your family.

Being away from your birth family can make you feel sad or lonely or scared. Your foster family and Social Worker are there to listen and help with everything you might be feeling.



What do I tell other people?

Anything you want to. You could just say “I’m staying for a little while with another family until my own family is sorted out”. Your foster family can help find the right thing for you to say.

What if I am unhappy?

If you are unhappy it is very important that you talk to somebody. You may want to talk to your Social Worker, Foster Carer or someone else.

You could talk to the Children’s Rights Officer. The officer can explain to you how you should be treated , help you tell people what you want, help you with any problems or just be there to chat to you.

You can phone on 0161 331 9381

Rules which carers and Social Workers must follow:

- Foster Carers and Social Workers have rules which they must follow.
- These rules are called National Minimum Standards for Foster Care.
- These rules say how children should be cared for properly in foster care.
- The people who make sure the rules are followed are called Ofsted.
- You can contact the Chief Inspector at Ofsted on the following:
- You could phone them on 0300 123 1231.



- You could visit their website at www.ofsted.gov.uk
- You could visit their website at www.ofsted.gov.uk
- If you have anything you would like to say to these people then your Social Worker, Foster Carer or the Children’s Rights Officer could help you.
- There is also a set of rules that says how foster care should work in Tameside.
- This is called a Statement of Purpose.
- You can find out more about this from you SocialWorker or Foster Carer.

Useful people who can help you

Social Worker’s name.....

Telephone

Your Independent Reviewing Officer is

You can contact your Independent Reviewing Officer on 0161 342 4343 or you can email them at Conference&Review@tameside.gov.uk

Children’s Rights Service
0161 331 9381

Child Line 0800 884 444

Complaints Team
0161 342 3535



Your Thoughts & Worries

You might like to tell us some of the things you think or worry about.

Draw or write here and then show your carer or Social Worker.

