

INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Information for Me

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



INTRODUCTION TO WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST FOSTERING

This is a booklet all about foster care. As you read it, we hope that some of your questions are answered. You may be just going into foster care for the first time or moving to new foster carers.

It is normal to have a lot of questions and everyone will help you to settle in and make you feel at home as soon as possible.

As a fostering agency our aim is to provide you with a home where you will feel safe, you are well looked after and supported to do well whether you are with our carers for a short time or for a longer period.

Best wishes,
Laurie-Mo Gullachsen, Registered Manager

You may live with a Foster Carer or you may live with a member of your family. This booklet gives you some information but please also talk to your:

SOCIAL
WORKER

FAMILY

ADVOCATE

TEACHER

INDEPENDENT
REVIEWING
OFFICER

BEST
FRIEND

YOUTH
VOICE
TEAM

FOSTER CARERS

Foster carers choose to care for you. They have training, lots of information and can call their social worker to make sure you are kept safe and well.



Foster carers can live in a house, cottage, flat or static home



They can be working or stay at home.



They may have lots of pets or no pets

They may or may not have children of their own and often have other foster children

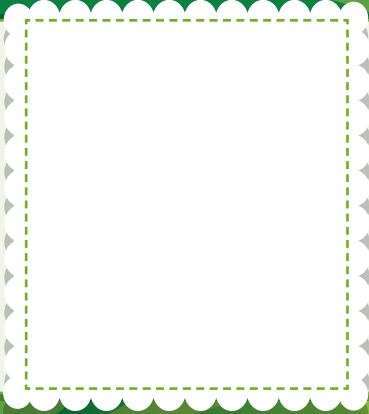


There are different sorts of foster carers:

- ★ **Short term Foster Carers:** Some children need to be cared for away from their home for a short period of time. Short-term fostering can be for a period of days, weeks, months and sometimes can last a year or longer.
- ★ **Long-term or Permanent Foster Carers:** normally care for you through to independence. Long-term fostering allows children and young people to live with a family where they can feel secure and experience a stable family environment, while keeping in touch with their birth family where that's right for them.
- ★ **Family and Friends Fostering:** This is also known as Kinship Fostering, this is when the Agency have legal responsibility for a child and place them with a family member or friend who becomes the foster carer for that child.

Foster carers are visited by their own social worker who will talk to them and you about how you are getting on. You can also talk to them if you have any worries.

MY FOSTER CARERS



My Foster family and pets look like this:

This is what makes a good foster home for me:

This is what makes me feel happy:

This is what makes me feel sad:

This is what I think of being in a foster family:

THINGS THAT
ARE IMPORTANT
TO ME.....

THINGS I DON'T
LIKE TO EAT.....

ALL ABOUT ME...

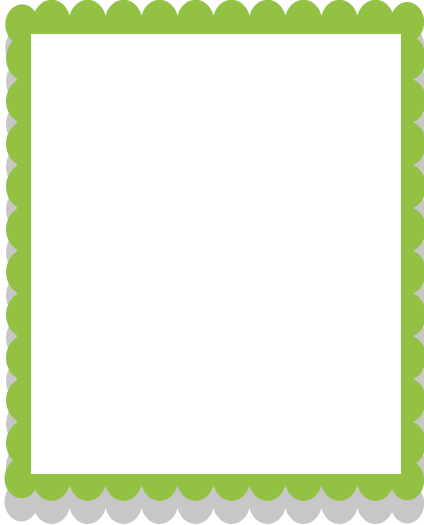
THINGS I LIKE
TO EAT.....

PEOPLE THAT
ARE IMPORTANT
TO ME.....

THINGS I DON'T
LIKE TO DO.....



WHAT IS A SOCIAL WORKER?



★ Your social worker is a person who will come and see you.

★ A social worker's job is to help children's and families through difficult times.

★ Your social worker will:

- Get to know you
- Listen to you
- Help you make sure you are safe and happy

My social worker's name is:

.....

Their telephone number is:

.....

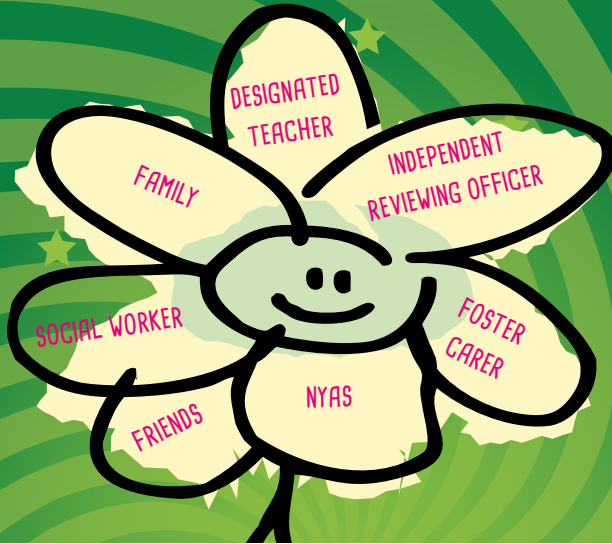
If you are not happy about something your Social worker has says or done you can speak to their boss :

Their name is:

Their telephone number is:

Their email address is:

HOW IT FITS TOGETHER



INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

An Independent Reviewing Officer will support you in your meeting. You should get to know them well and let them know if anything is bothering you.

Your Review will include all the people that you have chosen to come, for e.g. social worker, carer, key worker and sometimes your parents.

If you need some extra support you can ask someone you trust, like an advocate.

For more information see your Introduction Card.

My Independent Reviewing Officer's name is:

.....

Their telephone number is:

Their email address is:

WHAT ARE REVIEWS?



A review is when the people who care for you, meet with you to talk about the things that are important to you.

Going to your meeting is important because you can ask questions and be involved in making decisions about your future.

You can take someone you know to your meeting, like: a teacher, advocate and social worker.

If you feel you cannot go to the Review, it is important that you try and say or write or draw what you are feeling.

YOUR HEALTH

You will need to have a Health Assessment every year. You get a chance to talk about anything to do with your health that you may be worried about, like your skin, growth, friends, getting on with people and lots more.

Health Assessments happen once a year and you can take somebody with you.

Your foster carer will make sure that you are registered with a doctor, dentist and an optician if necessary.

Your Health Assessment will be done by the School Nurse or Doctor.



SCHOOL



Your education is important for your future.

There will be a teacher at your school with special responsibility for looked after children. They are called a Designated Teacher.

My Designated Teacher is called:

.....

Name of school:

Telephone number of the School:

Email address of the School:



YOUTH VOICE TEAM



We have a council of young people called Who Cares We Care, Speak Out and Big Voices Little Kids. They make sure that the voices of ALL children in care can be heard, to help them, and make a difference to their lives.

Who Cares We Care, Speak Out and Big Voices Little Kids work really hard to help improve things for other children in care. They also do lots of fun activities too, such as bowling, day trips and playing pool.

Find out more:

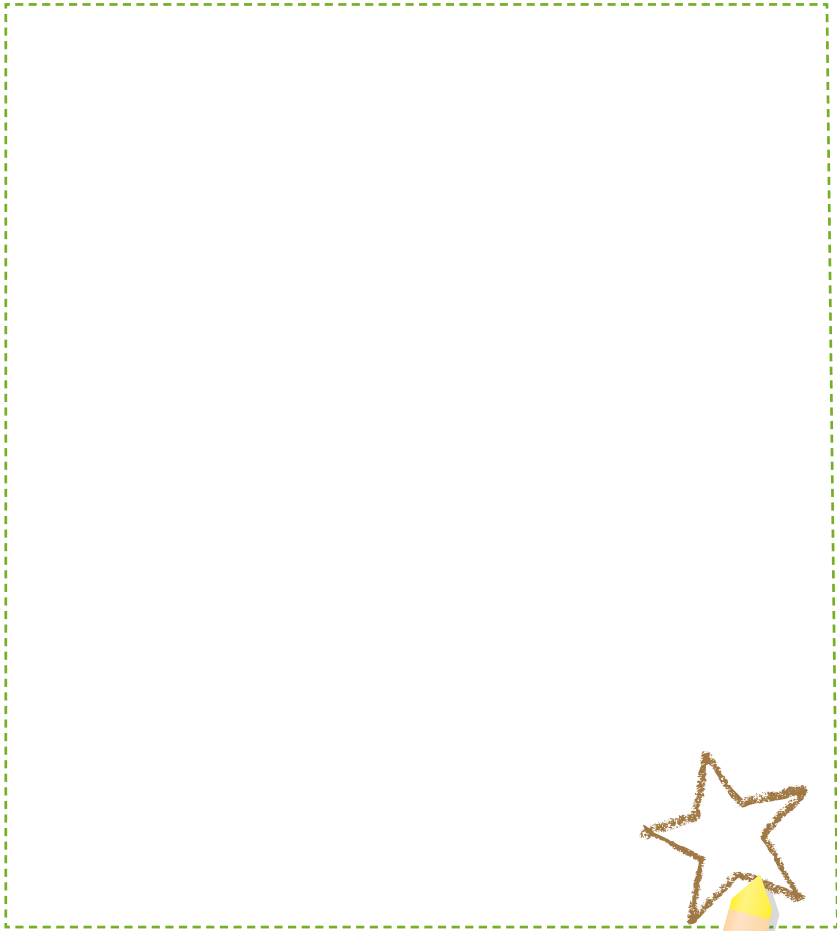
T: 01905 846498

E: youthvoiceteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Draw a picture or write a list of people who are important to you and their telephone numbers if you know it.



DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT, COMPLIMENT OR COMMENT?



When things go wrong you need someone to listen to you! We want to hear from you.

It is best to try and talk to your carer, social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer or teacher about things that are bothering you.

COMMENT

COMPLIMENT

COMPLAINT

However, if you are still unhappy about something and want to complain then contact your Independent Reviewing Officer or advocate /Independent Visitor who can help you with this.

You can also speak to your social worker or your foster carers social worker or contact us at:

fostering@worcestershirechildrenfirst.org.uk

Ofsted's job is to check on social workers and Children's Services to make sure foster carers and Children's Homes are doing their job properly.

For information and advice about Ofsted:

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk


Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

USEFUL NUMBERS

Coram Voice is an organisation that offers support and information for children and young people in care, on the edge of care and care leavers. We have lots of people who work for us and can help you to get the grown-up support you might need to make sure your voice is heard.

Our **Advocates** can support and listen to you if you feel your wishes and feelings are not being heard by your social worker, carers or anyone else involved in decisions about your care and welfare.

Our **Independent Visitors** can also spend time with you at or away from your home or placement doing activities that YOU are interested in like going to the cinema or going for meals.

Helpline: **0808 800 5792**

Website: **www.coramvoice.org.uk**



WGFF SERVICE CONTACT DETAILS



01905 765765
(main Hub)

Email:

fostering@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Website:

www.worcestershirefostering.co.uk

Postal: **WCFF, County Hall,
Worcestershire, WR5 2NP**

This document can be made available in other formats (largeprint, audio tape, computer disk, widget and Braille) on request from The Fostering Team on the contact details above.



The Children's Commissioner for England

The Children's Commissioner for England listens to what children and young people have to say about how they are looked after. The team are responsible for the rights of all children and young people until they are 18 years old, or 25 years if they have been in care, are care leavers or have a disability

Telephone: **08005 280731**

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

**Children's
Commissioner**
Promoting and protecting children's rights

Other useful websites:

childlawadvice.org.uk

lawstuff.org.uk



fosteringworcestershire
worcestershirefostering.co.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST
Fostering

