

fostering.  
be the difference



# RMBC Foster Carers Charter 2017/2018

*RMBC fostering recognises that foster carers are at the heart of the foster care service and aims to provide stable and first rate foster care for children who are valued, supported and encouraged to grow and develop as individuals.*

*To achieve this aim, we recruit, train and approve foster carers and deliver ongoing support to them, in order to give them the skills and confidence they need to develop meaningful relationships with the children and young people they care for and provide stable and loving homes while they are part of the foster family.*

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Signatures



Date: 20.09.2017

Ian Walker, Head of Service Children in Care

*Anne Banks*

Date: 20.09.2017

Anne –Marie Banks, Service Manager Fostering and Adoption

## What Foster carers can expect from us

### Working in partnership

We will:

- Value your skills and expertise equally to those of other professionals
- Recognise that you are the people who live with children every day and know them best
- Involve you in all meetings that affect you and the children you care for
- Ensure that our fostering service will meet the standards set out in fostering regulations and guidance
- Treat you without discrimination and respect you as a colleague and your rights in relation to confidentiality.

### Information

We will:

- Give you all the information you need in order to care safely for the child
- Provide this information in writing prior to placement, or as soon as possible in the case of emergency placements
- Ensure that there is a placement plan drawn up in discussion with you and agreed with you in advance of placements, or as soon as possible in the case of emergency placements
- Provide you with information on all financial matters including tax, allowances and additional entitlements
- Provide you with full details of all relevant departmental policies and procedures.

### Clarity about decisions

We will:

- Ensure that, wherever possible, you are able to make everyday decisions that mean that your fostered child is not treated differently to their peers and can feel part of your family
- Provide clarity about any decision you may not take so that everyone understands who is responsible for what.

## Support

We will:

- Respond promptly and sympathetically to requests for additional support
- Provide you with monthly supervision and weekly phone contact
- Give you honest and open feedback
- provide you with access to 24 hour support from people with fostering expertise
  
- Pay you allowances, expenses and fees in a timely manner
- Pay fees that reflect the task
- Ensure that there is a local group, recognised by the fostering service, where you and your family can find support and share experiences with other fostering families.

## Learning and development

We will:

- Provide you and your family with appropriate and relevant training by trainers who understand the fostering task
- Enable you to develop meaningful relationships with the children in your care and the fellow members of the team around the child
- Provide you with other development opportunities which make the best use of your skills and expertise, such as mentoring or providing training or support.

## Fair treatment

We will:

- Consult with you before changing terms and conditions
- Ensure openness in all of our discussions and communications with you
- Ensure that you are treated with respect, kept informed and provided with emotional support should you be subject to an allegation
- Provide a framework for dealing with allegations and adhere to our agreed timescales
- Ensure that you know the arrangements for the payment of fees and allowances in the event that you are not able to foster while the subject of an allegation.

## Communication and consultation

We will:

- Facilitate regular communication between you, councillors and the Director of Children's Services
- Ensure that we consult with you in a meaningful way on matters that affect you
- Give you timely feedback from consultations.

## What fostering services expect from foster carers

### Working in partnership

We will:

- Demonstrate our expertise and make use of our skills to the best of our ability
- Provide children with a positive experience of family life
- Attend meetings about the children and young people we care for
- Work with the agencies involved with the child such as school, health and religious establishments
- Show a willingness to work with birth parents, wider family and people significant in a child's life
- Meet the standards set out in fostering regulations and guidance and follow departmental policies and procedures
- Respect confidentiality.

### Respect for the child

We will:

- Develop a meaningful relationship with the child: understand their needs, support their development, and become an advocate and champion for them
- Respect and promote a child's religious, linguistic and cultural heritage
- Afford the same level of protection and care to a child as we would our own child in accordance with the national minimum standards
- Ensure the child has the right to make decisions regarding their own lives, as appropriate to their age and understanding.

### Information

We will:

- Inform our supervising social worker about changes in our household
- Inform our supervising social worker about any difficulties that arise for us.

### Learning, development and support

We will:

- Be willing and able to develop our skills throughout our fostering career

- Attend relevant training
- Take up opportunities offered to us
- Let you know if we are unable to attend
- Attend and contribute to support groups.

### **Communication and consultation**

We will:

- Respond to local consultations and discussion in order to inform the development of the service
- Meet with councillors, service managers and others in order to promote dialogue and a good working relationship
- Support the children in our care to do the same.

### **What children and young People can expect from foster carers and RMBC fostering services :**

*(Taken from LAC Promise)*

**We will**

- **Help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm**
- **Help you to explore and be ready for the world of work**
- **Help you to be happy and healthy**
- **Help you to be proud of yourself and celebrate your individual beliefs**
- **Help you take part in activities that you enjoy or that you are interested in**
- **Help you to learn new skills as you grow up and become an adult**
- **Fully involve you in plans and decisions about you and your future**

- **Help you to learn and do your best at school and college**
- **Listen to what you have to say and make sure that it makes a difference**

***Useful contact details***

**RMBC Switchboard: 01709 382121**

**Fostering Duty Line: 01709 822532**

**Adoption Duty Line : 01709 254005**

**Fostering Payments: 01709 823975**

**Staying Put Co-ordinator: 01709 822625**

**Private Fostering: 01709 823976**

**Adoption/ Fostering Marketing Officer : 01709 255005**

**[www.fosteringinrotherham.org.uk](http://www.fosteringinrotherham.org.uk)**

**Facebook: Fostering in Rotherham**

**Twitter: fosterrotherham**