



December 2008

Fostering Service

Foster Carer Terms and Conditions

INTRODUCTION

In October 2007, the Leeds fostering service began implementing a new approach to payments for foster carers. The system is called Payment for Skills (PFS).

Payment for Skills simplifies the system of payments to foster carers and provides a clearer and fairer system for all.

Payment for Skills has four levels. This document details the Terms & Conditions applicable to each level which will come into force on each respective implementation date.

The Terms and Conditions have been written in consultation with good practice guidance available from BAAF (British Association for Adoption & Fostering) and Fostering Network. The Payment for Skills Task, Skills and Competencies (TSC) framework covers the National Minimum Standard requirements of the Fostering Service Regulations 2002 and the headings relate to the Governments *Every Child Matters: Change for Children* agenda.

Additional information is available in *Fostering Service Financial Policy (FN16)* (document two) and *Foster Care, Income Tax, National Insurance and Welfare Benefits* (document three). These documents should be read alongside these Terms and Conditions.

Terms and Conditions and the signed Foster Carer Agreement form the basis of the ongoing agreement between Leeds Social Care and its approved foster carers.

These Terms and Conditions will be implemented on January 1st 2009, and reviewed on January 1st 2010 for implementation of any revisions on April 1st 2010. Thereafter they will be reviewed at 2 yearly intervals.

ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL

- 1 **Initial Approval**
Approval as a PFS foster carer is subject to the satisfactory completion of: -
 - Foster carer preparation and training
 - A comprehensive competency based assessment including medicals, references and checks
 - An evidencing Portfolio
 - A positive Fostering Panel recommendation and subsequent approval by the Agency Decision Maker

- 2 **Continued Approval**
Continued approval as a PFS foster carer is subject to:-
 - Adherence to National Minimum Standards requirements of the Fostering Service Regulations 2002
 - Ability to meet the TSC requirements of the carers attained PFS level, including regular attendance at support groups and meeting other relevant training requirements including completion of a Personal Development Plan
 - The satisfactory outcome of the Foster Carer Review, held at annual and other significant intervals

ALLOWANCES AND FEES

- Weekly Maintenance Allowance**
- 3 The weekly maintenance allowance is provided to cover the needs of a child or young person placed in the household, and covers all food and associated utility costs, entertainment costs and activities and items that avoid social exclusion and enable young people to make a successful transition from care to independence.
- 4 Weekly maintenance allowance payments are reviewed and adjusted annually in April, notified to carers and published on the council's website (www.leeds.gov.uk/fostering)
- 5 The amount of the weekly maintenance payment is age related and is calculated on a weekly basis, with sevenths being paid for part weeks. When a child becomes an age where the maintenance payment increases, this will take effect from the beginning of the week in which the child's birthday falls.
- 6 The Fostering Service Financial Policy (FN16) (document two) sets out a framework that covers the weekly maintenance allowances provided to foster carers and kinship foster carers and should be used as a minimum standard and general guide. Enquires regarding items not covered in FN16 should be discussed with the carer's supervising fostering officer (SFO).

- 7 Where a child/young person has a disability and meets the criteria for Disability Living Allowance, foster carers can claim this in addition to the maintenance allowance. This is intended to meet the increased cost of looking after a child with additional care/mobility needs, and to fund requirements resulting from these additional needs.
- 8 When the child/young person reaches 16yrs, DLA will be paid to them. If they are unable to manage finances this will be assessed by the Benefit Agency and the foster carer will become the appointee for the young person and manage the DLA on their behalf.
- 9 Additionally, foster carers can claim Carer's Allowance (Carer's Allowance can only be paid once per carer regardless of the number of disabled children cared for), if they have a foster child/young person who receives DLA Care Component at the middle or higher rate.

Fees

- 10 Fees are distinct from maintenance payments. Fees provide financial reward to foster carers, following a matching of their skills and competencies, and their ability to undertake specified tasks. This relates to the PFS TSC framework (see below).
- 11 Level 2,3 and 4 foster carers are paid a weekly fee, dependent on the "level" for which they are approved. Kinship and level 1 carers are not paid a fee. The fee "levels" are part of the PFS structure.
- 12 A foster carer's move or progression to another PFS level is ratified at an appropriate Fostering Panel. This decision is then confirmed to the foster carer in writing. The supervising fostering officer notifies Carer Payments of the appropriate fee level and its effective date and this notification is endorsed by their fostering team manager.
- 13 Fee and allowance rates are reviewed and adjusted annually in April each year, notified to carers and published on the Council's website fostering pages (www.leeds.gov.uk/fostering).

Kinship Carers

- 14 Kinship carers are approved for a particular child to which they are either related, or are a significant linked person. Kinship carers are not available to take other children. They are not paid a fee.

Payment for Skills / Task, Skills and Competency (TSC) Framework

- 15 The TSC framework sets out a list of the tasks, skills and competencies that foster carers must be able to demonstrate at each PFS Level. It also sets out the training a carer is required to undertake at that level. Each level adds more to the next, so that Level 4 Carers develop higher level skills and competencies, and have a more demanding range of tasks that they must undertake.

- 16 Copies of the current TSC progressive framework are available from the Fostering Service.

Individually Agreed Fees

- 17 Following the implementation of Payment for Skills, all payments will be in line with the new structure. All Individually Agreed Fees (IAFs) have been reviewed. Subject to the review confirming the continuation of the IAF, the carer will receive the fee as determined by the review until the child leaves the placement.
- 18 Exceptionally there will remain some types of foster care that require financial enhancement. These will relate to two key criteria:
- i) The carer experiences financial disadvantage as a result of his/her caring duties (*this is most likely to relate to Kinship carers*),
 - or
 - ii) The carer has time-limited and exceptional tasks that are not covered in the Task, Skill and Competency Framework, that are driven by specific outcomes and that require time that is over and above what is normally expected of the carer.

These exceptional payment arrangements must be approved by the Head of Service (Delivery).

Part Week Payments – Fees and Maintenance Payments

- 19 Where placements last for less than a week (7 days) or where they start or end part way through a week, calculations are made on a “day” basis. So, for example, if a young person stays with another carer for respite from Friday to Sunday, this counts as 3 days, even though the young person might arrive at Friday tea time and leave before lunch on Sunday. Each day is calculated as 1/7th of the fee normally paid to the carer, plus 1/7 of the weekly maintenance allowance for the child. The primary carer in this situation would also get the maintenance allowance on the Friday and the Sunday (see *Holidays and Respite* below).
- 20 Where a placement begins and ends on the same day, 1/7th of the fee payment, and 1/7th of the weekly maintenance allowance, will be paid to the carer, regardless of the actual length of time spent in placement.

EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM (EDT) FOSTER CARE

- 21 An EDT placement is one made by the Emergency Duty Team following a referral received outside normal working hours.
- 22 The task of EDT foster carer will be undertaken primarily by level 4 carers, with the exception of babies aged 0-2yrs who may be placed with level 2 carers.
- 23 Any level 4 carer (or level 2 in respect of babies 0-2yrs) with a vacancy can offer themselves as available for EDT placements, but only after consultation and agreement with their SFO/ Team Manager. They should have a spare room available for EDT placements.

- 24 A risk assessment of the circumstances, accommodation and existing placements within the household will be undertaken and "terms of use" by EDT agreed and recorded on file (ages/gender/profiles etc).
- 25 Carers can only be available to take EDT placements where a "vacancy" exists. Only carers with less than 3 foster children in placement can therefore take an EDT placement.
- 26 Where there is a dispute between foster carers and SFO's about EDT availability, fostering panel should be consulted as part of the foster carer review process.
- 27 EDT carers must be prepared and equipped to receive children in crisis and at short notice. They should not expect that children will go to nursery/school/college 'as usual' and they should expect a high level of social work involvement, meetings and appointments (eg medical etc), during the course of the placement.
- 28 At the end of the EDT placement, the carer will have the option of making themselves available for further EDT placements, or accepting other temporary placements via the Placements Desk .

EDT Payments

- 29 The fee and maintenance allowance payments for the foster carers substantive placement/s will continue unchanged
- 30 Maintenance allowance will be paid for the EDT placement on a 1/7th per day basis.
- 31 Where EDT place an additional child (or more if siblings), the EDT fee payment will commence at the first placement fee rate, and then continue on the sliding scale as indicated below:-

<u>Substantive Placements</u>	+	<u>EDT Placements</u>
1 placement =	1 st placement fee	+ 1 st placement fee
2 placements =	2 nd placement fee	+ *2 nd placement fee
3 placements		+ *3 rd placement fee
4 placements		+ *4 th placement fee

**These rates will only apply if a sibling group is placed.*

- 32 EDT fee payments are paid on a 1/7th per day basis. They will be paid for up to 28 days to enable time to review interventions and plan alternatives.

Payment Procedures

- 33 Fees and allowances are usually paid on a weekly basis for temporary placements and on a fortnightly basis for permanent placements. Payment frequency is determined by Carer Payments from the completed placement category on the Notice of Change in Circumstances form (CSIR13).

- 34 Fortnightly payments are made current week and a week in advance. Weekly payments are made a week in arrears. All payments are made via the direct bank credit system.
- 35 If a request for payment is to be acted upon by Carer Payments in a particular week, it must reach Carer Payments by 12 noon of the Friday of the week before. The payment will then be made on the subsequent Friday.
- 36 Changes in fee level will relate to changes in approved PFS level. Notifying carer Payments is the responsibility of the SFO with authorisation from the Team Manager after Panel.
- 37 Carer Payments also need to be informed of any changes in circumstances of looked after children that affect the payments made, for example, when children leave school, commence work, or receive income support. As part of this process, it is important that foster carers inform the social worker and their fostering officer promptly, of any changes that affect payments.
- 38 An annual financial statement is sent to foster carers, by carer payments, at the start of each financial year. The statement provides carers with details of all allowance and fee payments made to them during the previous financial year.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN FOSTER CARE AGED 18+YRS

- 39 When a young person reach 18yrs, for the purpose of payment, that young person will continue to be considered the first placement. However for the purposes of fostering regulations, that young person will not count as a placement, but as an adult member of the household.
- 40 Should approval for further foster placements be subsequently sought, the usual review/reassessment process will be applied.

INCOME TAX, NATIONAL INSURANCE, AND WELFARE BENEFITS

- 41 Foster carers should be aware that any payments received from Leeds Children and Young People's Social Care in connection with providing a foster care placement/s count towards their potential taxable income.
- 42 Carer/s should also note that whilst fostering maintenance allowances and fees do not count as income for welfare benefit purposes when a child or young person is in placement, they do count as income when there is no child in placement and subsequent paragraphs of this document detail various circumstances where this might apply.
- 43 Detailed information on these elements is set out in the attached fostering service document – *Foster Care, Income Tax, National Insurance and Welfare Benefits* (document three). Because every Foster carer's financial situation will differ however, it is always important to seek specialist advice about specific and individual circumstances.

- 44 Information on these elements provided by the Leeds Fostering Service is provided as a general guide for foster carers and may not apply to individual circumstances.

PAYMENTS DURING PERIODS OF CARER ILLNESS

- 45 During periods of illness (definition – where child/ren cannot be maintained in the carers home), carers may receive in any one financial year, up to 3 continuous weeks fee payments per household, at a level equivalent to the fee rate being paid to them in the week immediately preceding the period of illness, plus the clothing element of the maintenance allowance, calculated on a 1/7th basis.
- 46 At the end of the 3 week period the situation will be reviewed and may be extended for a further period, the length of which and the level of fee will be determined by the Head of Service (Delivery).
- 47 In making a decision to extend sick leave payments, consideration will be given to the carer's service record and sickness history.
- 48 As carers are self employed, they are encouraged to explore personal health insurance cover.

RETAINERS

- 49 In the gap between placements, Level 4 carers registered for one placement, will be paid one full fee per household per week, for a maximum of 52 weeks (except for unpaid leave and sickness arrangements) in any one financial year.
- 50 A maximum of two placements will be retained at any one time with a carer, the 2nd placement being paid at 50% of the difference between the one and two placement rate.
- 51 Carers registered for two children where only one child is in placement, will receive 50% of the difference between the one and two placement rate, paid in addition to the fee being paid for the child in placement.
- 52 The 2nd placement retainer will be paid for one ten week period only in any one financial year.
- 53 In exceptional circumstances, the Head of Service (Delivery) may exercise discretion, to retain highly specialist placements for periods in excess of ten weeks.
- 54 The right to receive a retainer is based on a flexible and reasonable approach to proposed placements, and will be forfeited should the carer unreasonably refuse a placement (eg a placement that falls within their registration at panel and PFS level).
- 55 Where there is a dispute regarding what would constitute "reasonable refusal", fostering panel chairs will act as arbiters. Records of "refused" placements

will be kept by supervising fostering officers and considered at each Foster Carer Review.

(Please note: Guidance on what constitutes 'unreasonable refusal' is published separately as guidance for Fostering Panels).

- 56 A retainer for newly approved level 4 carers will be paid during the introductory period following matching. In exceptional circumstances and subject to Resource Team Manager approval, the retainer can be paid from the point of approval until the first placement is made.

FOSTER CARER HOLIDAYS

Holiday / Leave Entitlement

- 57 Holiday entitlement applies to Level 4 carers only. Level 4 carers are entitled to 28 days paid holiday per household, in any one financial year.
- 58 Family Placement carers caring for a child meeting the LCC eligibility criteria for disabled children, will be entitled to 12 days respite in addition to the 28 days holiday.
- 59 Carers can carry over holiday entitlement, usually up to one week, between financial years up to 1 June, by agreement with their supervising fostering officer.
- 60 In exceptional circumstances, for example where suitable alternative carers cannot be identified and therefore the carer cannot take their holiday entitlement, payment of the fee in lieu of holiday can be made, authorised by the Resource Teams Manager. This applies only where the fostering service has received a minimum of six weeks notice of the holiday plans.
- 61 In addition to holiday entitlement and in exceptional circumstances, fee paid carers can take unpaid leave of up to 28 days in any one year. Requests should be made via the supervising fostering officer and agreed by a Fostering Team Manager. Requests for unpaid leave in excess of 28 days will trigger a review of the carer. No fee is payable for unpaid leave periods.
- 62 If carers need time without the child/ren in placement due to personal circumstances rather than as part of the childcare plan, the Department has the discretion not to reduce payments. The situations where this might apply include death, serious illness of a family member or other significant person, or a domestic crisis, and would be unlikely to extend beyond two weeks in total.
- 63 All requests for paid "compassionate respite" should be made via the Supervising Fostering Officer, agreed by a Fostering Team Manager, and approved by the Resource Team Manager.

Holiday Pay

- 64 Level 4 carers registered for one placement will receive holiday pay at the one placement fee level. Level 4 carers registered for two or more placements will receive holiday pay at a maximum of the two placement fee level.
- 65 The clothing element of the maintenance allowance will continue to be paid.
- 66 Holiday pay is based on the number of nights the child is away from the placement and is paid at 1/7th of the weekly fee rate per night
- 67 Level 2 carers taking holiday without their foster children, will have fee payments suspended for the duration of the holiday.

Payment to the Foster Carer providing Holiday Cover

- 68 Foster Carers providing holiday cover are paid on a pro-rata basis at a rate per child of 1/7th of the maintenance allowance, and 1/7th of the fee for each day in placement.
- 69 Level 4 carers are paid at the second child level 4 fee level for holiday cover provision, and level 2 carers are paid at the level 2 first child fee level.

Relatives and Friends offering Holiday Cover

- 70 Relatives and family friends offering holiday cover will be subject to an assessment completed by the supervising fostering officer for the primary carer and approved by the Fostering Panel.
- 71 New relatives / family friends holiday carers will be paid maintenance allowance and the first child level 2 fee, on a pro-rata 1/7th day basis.
- 72 For family and friends who care for children in the home of the primary carer, the holiday carer will receive the fee element only. The maintenance allowance will continue to be paid to the primary carer who will provide the necessary food, equipment etc.

RESPITE

Definition of Respite

- 73 Respite is the provision of agreed stays in another placement for the purpose of enabling the primary placement to be supported in the interests of the child. It is essentially a part of the child's Placement Plan and it is envisaged (other than for Family Placement carers – see below) that it will be exceptional for all children, and particularly those placed with Level 4 carers, given that it is in addition to holiday entitlement.

Respite amounts

- 74 The total number of days respite should not exceed 28 days in any one year and should be noted by the SFO on the foster carer file to ensure that the carers need for respite is balanced with the child's need for stability.

Family Placement Respite

- 75 Family Placement carers caring for a child meeting the LCC eligibility criteria for disabled children, will be entitled to 12 days Respite in addition to 28 days holiday

Respite Payments

- 76 Where a child is in receipt of Respite, the primary carer will continue to receive the fee, and the clothing element of the weekly maintenance allowance, calculated on a 1/7th day basis, for up to 28 days per household, per year. During this time the primary foster carer will remain responsible for the provision of clothing.
- 77 Level 4 carers are paid the level 4 second child fee for respite provision, and level 2 carers are paid the level 2 first child fee. The respite carer will receive 1/7th of the maintenance payment and 1/7th of the fee, for each day that the child is placed with them.
- 78 Should respite exceed 28 days in any one financial year, then fee payments will not continue. Any continued weekly maintenance allowance payment will be paid at the clothing allowance only rate, and must be approved by the Head of Service (Delivery).

Placement Introductions

- 79 Where the child is visiting a foster home for introductions and has a primary placement elsewhere, the new carer will be paid 1/7th of their appropriate fee level, and 1/7th of the maintenance allowance for each day that the child is in placement with them.
- 80 Introductions to a new foster carer should not be counted as respite in respect of the total respite cover that the primary carer has accrued
- 81 Where placement introductions extend beyond 14 days, discussions should take place between the Fostering Team Manager and Team Manager Children, with a view to suggesting a structure of payment. Any exceptional financial arrangements must be approved by the Head of Service (Delivery).

UNPLANNED ENDINGS AND DISRUPTIONS

- 82 The Resource Team Manager has the discretion to continue payments of a fee for a child where the placement has ended abruptly. This is dependent upon being satisfied that the circumstances were such that the minimum of 28 days notice could not be given, and that the ending of the placement was for matters beyond the carer's control. Payment of a fee can be continued for up to 28 days.

PAYMENTS WHEN ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CARERS ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION

- 83 Payment of fees will continue if a child is withdrawn from placement because of an allegation against a carer, until the matter is fully resolved, or a decision is made by Fostering Panel to terminate a carer's registration. Payment will be paid at the fee rate being received by the carer at the time the suspension

took place, and will continue until the Fostering Team Manager decides that the situation is resolved.

- 84 All payments during the investigation of allegations are subject to the full co-operation of the carer in the investigation. Failure to co-operate may result in the withdrawal of all payments. In such circumstances, the Head of Service (Delivery) will be asked to make the decision, based on information provided by the Fostering Team Manager / Resource Team Manager.
- 85 Recommendations to terminate a carer's registration are taken by an appropriate Fostering Panel and a decision is then made by the Agency Decision Maker. The fee payment will continue for one month then cease.

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Children and Young People Absent From Placements.

- 86 In situations where a child or young person is absent from a placement the Maintenance Allowance and Skills and Training Fee will continue to be paid for up to 7 days.
- 87 Where exceptional cases of unusually high dependency on hospital care exist, the CSDM and Fostering Team Manager will discuss payment arrangements with the relevant Head of Service. Any decision to continue the Maintenance Allowance and Skills and Training Fee payments will be taken following an assessment of need and will consider whether the child/young person is still being supported by the carer/s. For example, whether a child or young person is in hospital and carer/s are visiting daily and providing ongoing practical, emotional and financial support.
- 88 If a child is away at a residential school, the carer will receive their relevant PFS fee plus 1/7th of the maintenance payment for each night that the child stays in the foster home.

Care Placements outside Leeds

- 89 Carers should be paid according to the scheme of the agency that approved their registration as foster carers.
- 90 It may be possible for a carer who has been approved by another agency to be paid under the Leeds scheme, but this would be subject to their ability to meet the Leeds PFS standards and to sustain appropriate levels of training and development.
- 91 In any situation where Leeds City Council pays a carer for caring for a Leeds looked after child, the standards of care and levels of support and supervision must be at least as good as if they were a Leeds approved carer living in Leeds. The carer will be expected to satisfy the PFS task, skill and competency standards for the level at which s/he is paid.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

- 92 Awards will be made available to foster carers as a result of length of service (see amounts below). Vouchers with values dependent on length of service, are made available via the Fostering Service (Merrion House), following completion of the Foster Carer Review, and the approval of a Fostering Team Manager.
- 93 Long service or retirement awards should not generally be made where the carer is deregistered for matters associated with quality of care and/or carer conduct.
- 94 The value of the Long Service Awards at 1st January 2009 are:

Length of Service (years)	Long Service Award Certificate + gift token to the value of:-
5yrs	£25 + Flowers
10yrs	£50 + Flowers
15yrs	£75 + Flowers
20yrs (or retirement after 10yrs service)	£100 + Flowers and personal letter from The Chief Officer

OVERPAYMENTS

- 95 Carers continue to be paid according to the most recent instruction provided to Carer Payments by a member of staff, until notified that circumstances have changed. When predictable patterns of care (eg. Respite) change, or when a child moves placement, or any other relevant change takes place, Carer Payments need to be notified as soon as possible. It is important that carers notify their Supervising Fostering Officer promptly of any changes, so that s/he can ensure that the necessary notifications have been submitted.

OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY

- 96 The Department will make every effort to ensure overpayments of fees or allowances do not occur. However, the foster carer has an individual responsibility to check all payment information received and to contact Carer Payments immediately if an overpayment occurs. In the event of an overpayment, the Department will seek to recover the full amount.
- 97 Recovery of up to 8 weeks overpayment (i.e normally 4 payment periods) is able to be identified by the electronic Payments System and is recovered automatically.
- 98 Where significant overpayments are identified (overpayments of significantly more than an 8 week period) these will be notified by the carer Payments Team / Finance to the Resource Team Manager (Children). The Fostering Team Manager will liaise with the Resource Team Manager, Supervising

Fostering Officer and the foster carer concerned, on arrangements for recovery of the full amount. Repayment will be at a minimum recovery of 25% of the carers weekly allowance.

- 99 Prompt arrangements for repayment should be formally agreed as soon as possible.
- 100 On approval, all carers will be required to complete the Agreement to Repay Overpayment of Fostering Maintenance Allowances and Skills and Training Fees form. This will be updated annually.

FAILURE TO MEET PFS TSC REQUIREMENTS

- 101 Where concerns about a foster carer consistently failing to meet PFS TSC requirements are identified, the SFO will discuss with the foster carer and Fostering Team Manager at an early stage.
- 102 If the issues remain unresolved, a joint visit to the foster carer will be undertaken by the SFO and Fostering Team Manager.
- 103 The Fostering Team Manager may decide that a Foster Carer Review should be undertaken and referred to Fostering Panel within eight weeks of the joint visit.
- 104 Should the outcome of the Review be unsatisfactory, Panel may request a period of "probation", during which time the carer will be given the opportunity, to achieve and maintain the relevant PFS TSC requirements over a specific period of time.
- 105 If the outcome of this period is successful, then their PFS approval will subsequently be reconfirmed.
- 106 If the outcome is unsuccessful, Panel may decide to lower the carers PFS approval level, or to reduce the number of children/young people the carer is approved for.
- 107 Should significant concerns still remain, then the carers approval may ultimately be suspended or withdrawn.

IMPORTANT NOTE

- 108 Foster carers are reminded of their Income Tax, National Insurance and Welfare Benefits responsibilities and the need to familiarise themselves with the guidance on relevant regulations contained in the separate Fostering Service document - *Foster Care, National Insurance, Income Tax and Welfare Benefits* and to seek individual and separate advice.

Fostering Services / National Minimum Standards

Fostering Services Regulations

(March 2002)

PROVIDING SUITABLE FOSTER CARERS

STANDARD 6

The fostering service makes available foster carers who provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.

VALUING DIVERSITY

STANDARD 7

The fostering service ensures that children and young people, and their families, are provided with foster care services which value diversity and promote equality.

MATCHING

STANDARD 8

Local authority fostering services ensure that each child or young person placed in foster care is carefully matched with a carer capable of meeting her/his assessed needs.

PROTECTING FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

STANDARD 9

The fostering service protects each child or young person from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and deprivation.

PROMOTING CONTACT

STANDARD 10

The fostering service makes sure that each child or young person in foster care is encouraged to maintain and develop family contacts and friendships as set out in her/his care plan and/or foster placement agreement.

CONSULTATION

STANDARD 11

The fostering service ensures that children's opinions, and those of their families and others significant to the child, are sought over all issues which are likely to affect their daily life and their future.

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

STANDARD 12

The fostering service ensures that it provides foster carer services which help each child or young person in foster care to receive health care which meets her/his needs for physical, emotional and social development, together with information and training appropriate to her/his age and understanding to enable informed participation in decisions about her/his health needs.

PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

STANDARD 13

The fostering service gives high priority to meeting the educational needs of each child or young person in foster care and ensures that she/he is encouraged to attain her/his potential.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

STANDARD 14

The fostering service ensures that their foster care services help to develop skills, competence and knowledge necessary for adult living.

