

The NLAFC Remand Fostering Service Foster Carers' Contract

Aim of the Remand Fostering Scheme:

- (i) Provide Courts with a community based alternative to remanded young people going into secure accommodation. This includes Remands into Youth Detention Accommodation, by maintaining access to six specialist foster families
- (ii) Provide a high level of supervision for young people assessed as presenting some risk of offending during the remand period.
- (iii) Foster carers recruited to the Remand Fostering Scheme will need previous experience of working with young people with complex needs.
- (iv) Carers need to be non-judgemental and have the commitment to make a difference to a young person's life.

As Remand Scheme Foster Carers we agree to:

1) PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT:

- Supervise and care for a young person on remand in our home.
- Report any child care or safeguarding concerns immediately to the young person's YOT worker and the supervising Fostering Social Worker.
- To offer advice, information, and guidance to a young person and provide a sensitive introduction to your home environment and day to day routine.
- To ensure that young people are cared for in a home where they are safe from harm or abuse.
- To empower and support young people in order that they keep themselves safe from harm or abuse.
- To ensure young people seek help if their welfare is at risk.
- To respond to concerns as dictated to by your Local Authority Child Protection Procedures.
- To provide a clean and adequately furnished room to each young person and to have due regard for their privacy and independence.

2) CARING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON REMAND:

- To provide 24 hour Supervision to a young person placed with them
- Work intensively with up to two young persons if two carers are at home full time, or one young person where one carer is at home full time subject to a risk assessment by the supervising Fostering Social Worker. Not usually take other task-centred child/ren's placements
- To be effective in relating to young people who commit offences, but who have not been convicted of any offences, which have resulted in their remand status.

- Enable, guide and support young person to develop their skills in communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, social relationships, day-to-day organisation, understanding and using Restorative approaches.
- To respect and support the young person's specific ethnic and cultural requirements
- To work in a non-judgmental manner with young people and their families.
- To promote and maintain contact between the young person and their families, when appropriate.
- To set appropriate boundaries for young people and manage appropriate behaviour without the use of physical or inappropriate punishment.
- To transport/escort the young person to and from Court, police stations and solicitors offices when required and wherever possible.
- To appear in Court and provide evidence as to the young person's progress or in relation to any breach of bail, if required.
- Keep detailed records and communicate objectively and fully as to observations made.
- To contribute towards planning meetings, reviews and other relevant meetings about the young person.
- Adhere to the role and task expectations set out in the placement agreement or review meetings
- To undertake the role of an Appropriate Adult.
- To encourage the young person to attend school, training and work placements.
- To assist the YOT in it's endeavours to enhance the young person's physical, psychological and emotional development.
- To engage in any other activity and/or undertake specific tasks with the young person as determined by the YOT Officer/Social Worker.
- To provide an overnight Placement under PACE for a young person. (This is subject to availability)
- To comply with the Fostering Services regulations 2002 and the National Minimum Fostering Standards.
- To notify the YOT or EDT, during out of hours, when the young person has failed to comply with the Remand requirements and/or when there exists a concern for their welfare or that of others.

3) TEAM PARTICIPATION:

- 3.1 To work with professionals under the corporate parenting framework and/or other who may be assigned to work with the young person.
- 3.2 To contribute towards any assessment that may be undertaken with the young person.
- 3.3 To communicate effectively with other professionals.
- 3.4 To contribute and attend planning meetings and reviews scheduled for the young person.
- 3.5 To take part in Foster Carer support groups and to develop their own support networks.

4) PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

4.1 To undertake any training that may be required as part of your ongoing Fostering approval and attend specified training as outlined in the Remand Foster Carer Training Programme. To take part in regular supervision sessions with your supervising Fostering Social Worker and monthly Remand Foster Carer Support Groups.

5) PAYMENT:

- (i) **During placement** - Remand Foster Carers are paid £850 per week to cover the fostering allowance and fee.
- (ii) **Between placements** – Remand Foster Carers are paid £450 per week for up to 4 weeks.
- (iii) The Scheme will work to an occupancy rate of 39 weeks per annum (75%). For the remaining 13 weeks (25%) the carers are allowed to be free of Remand placements, if they wish, to allow time to recuperate from the anticipated heavy demand of this work. These 13 weeks are covered by the £450 retainer payment.

The above list is not exhaustive but it does indicate what can be expected of the Remand Foster Carer. This agreement will inevitably be the subject of review and modified according to changing circumstances. Remand Foster Carers will be kept fully informed of all charges (planned and pending) in the service, pertaining to their role.

The Scheme will initially be for one year and subject to monitoring review. If the Remand Scheme was not continued after one year, Remand Carers could be considered for transfer to one of the other Consortium Team’s specialist teenage fostering schemes, or to become mainstream foster carers.

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