

Parent and Child Scheme Foster Carers

How to contact us

North London Fostering Consortium
Parent and Child Fostering Scheme
Information for Professionals

A group of specialist foster carers who have the skills and knowledge to work with parents and children who are placed with them work collaboratively across the five North London Consortium boroughs. Their work within the scheme is underpinned by specialist supervising social workers, monthly support groups, and an ongoing specialist training programme.

The foster carers will contribute their observations to the assessment by record-keeping and through regular meetings with the parent, supervising social worker and the assessing social worker.

The foster carers provide detailed assessment and learning support records that, when necessary, can be used in court. The foster carers may, for a short period of time, be able to offer some continuing support to a family when they first move on to their own accommodation.

The Parent and Child Fostering Scheme works across the boroughs of **Barnet, Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey, Enfield.**

For more information about the scheme or details about who to contact in each borough, Please contact

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Providing a safe
and nurturing setting
for required
assessment of
parenting capacity



NORTH LONDON
ADOPTION
AND
FOSTERING
CONSORTIUM

Parenting Assessments

Assessing social workers carry out a parenting assessment underpinned by the Department of Health (2000) assessment framework. This will be a comprehensive assessment that will include an assessment of the child/children, each parent and family functioning.

Assessing social workers will incorporate information from a range of perspectives relevant to understanding the needs and issues for each parent.

A structured learning and reflection programme is used through each placement. Completed assessments provide clear information about the parents' understanding of the concerns, their strengths and weaknesses, parenting capacity and their potential and motivation to change.

Placement requests generally need to be made eight weeks prior to placement need, so that a pre-placement viability assessment can take place and a detailed plan set up.



Once a particular placement has been identified, the Borough managing the identified foster carer will arrange and chair a pre-placement planning meeting to finalise the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved.

Placements provide:

North London Fostering Consortium Parent and Child Fostering Placements enable robust assessments to take place when babies and young children are at risk of removal from their parent/s' care.

Placements make it possible to take longer term decisions for the child/ren's care as swiftly as possible, by providing sound evidence of the parent/s' abilities. Babies and young children remain in the care of their parent/s whilst these assessments take place, so their attachments are not disrupted.

Parent/s can show their abilities and potential for learning in relation to the range of skills needed for 'good enough' care. Through their day-to-day involvement in a learning programme with the foster carer, parents can be helped to appreciate for themselves their readiness or otherwise to be a full time parent.

Whatever the outcome of the assessment, both children and their parent/s can take forward learning from their placement experiences, which will help them face future challenges.

Assessment placements are likely to be appropriate for:

- Pre-birth or infants up to one year old
- Subject to a court order or the public law outline process has begun
- The parent is believed to be unable to provide safe care, even with daytime services
- Placing the parent and child together enables clear assessment information to be gathered.

Assessment placements usually are conducted over 12-week periods*, with reviews built in approximately monthly. **Parents with learning disabilities may be placed for up to 16 weeks, to allow adequate time for their learning needs.*

These placements are considered as a direct alternative to residential placements.

