# Foster Care Agreement

# Fostering Services Regulations 2011: Regulation 27(5)(b) & Schedule 5

Please note that the term 'carer' used in this document refers to all those approved by Norfolk Children's Services as foster carers. In the Regulations the term 'foster parents' is used.

Between ………………………………………………………………………………………….

and Norfolk County Council Children's Services.

1. I/We have received information about the terms of my/our approval as a foster carer, as set out on Notification of Foster Carer Approval.
2. I/We have received an access to a copy of Norfolk's 'Carers Handbook' which provides information on the arrangements for supervision, support and training that will be available to me/us. I understand that I/we will have a named social worker who, in consultation with me/us, will draw up a Supervision Agreement detailing the frequency of visits and other matters.

I/We understand that, as required by the National Minimum Standards (21.8.), my/our social worker will make some unannounced visits to my/our home. I/We also understand that I/we will be invited to attend training courses, workshops and conferences as appropriate, and that attendance for some courses may be a requirement.

1. I/We understand that my/our approval as a foster carer will be reviewed annually or more frequently if necessary, and that information about the process is set out in the Norfolk Fostering Services Procedures.
2. I/We understand that placements will be agreed with me/us as set out in a Placement Plan for each child, and that I/we hereby agree to comply with any terms or conditions set out in such a plan.
3. I/We understand that Norfolk County Council Children's Services undertake to pay the appropriate allowance for each child placed in accordance with the payments as detailed in **Fostering Allowances** leaflet which is revised and issued annually to all carers. I/We also understand that payments above the basic allowances may be regarded as taxable income and be liable for National Insurance contributions. Further information is available in the Carers Handbook or from my/our social worker.
4. I/We understand that Norfolk County Council Children's Services makes provision for the insurance of approved carers and to meet legal liabilities arising from a placement as detailed in the Carers Handbook which also explains the process of making a claim.
5. I/We understand that there is a complaints procedure available to carers in respect of a complaint on behalf of a child for whom they are caring and also for carers who wish to complain about a service they have, or have not, received from the Department. Details are set out in the Carers Handbook, which also gives information about how to appeal against a Panel recommendation.
6. I/We hereby undertake to give written notice to Norfolk County Council Children's Services with full particulars of:

(a) any intended change of my/our address

(b) any change in the composition of my/our household

(c) any other change in my/our personal circumstances and any other event affecting my/our capacity to care for a child or the suitability of my/our household; and

(d) any further application or request made by me/us to adopt children, or registration for childminding or day care.

1. I/We will not administer physical punishment or punitive parenting to any child placed with me/us. I/We agree to parent using restorative approaches and therapeutic reparenting and agree to working in partnership with honesty, accountability, respect, transparency and trust with the team around the child.
2. I/We need to uphold our reputation and that of Norfolk Fostering Service; foster carers should consider the consequences before posting anything on social networking sites and the impression it may give of you to those who access the information. Remember that anything posted online could end up in the public domain to be read by birth parents, children/ young people or your social worker.
3. I/We undertake to ensure that any information relating to a child placed with me/us, to the child's family or to any other person, which has been given to me/us in confidence in connection with a placement is kept confidential and is not disclosed to any person without the consent of Norfolk County Council Children's Services.
4. I/We will care for any child placed with me/us as if the child were a member of my/our family and to promote his or her welfare having regard to the long- and short-term plans for the child.
5. I/We will ensure that I/we comply with the policies and procedures of Norfolk County Council Children's Services for the protection of children and the management of behaviour as set out in the Carers Handbook and any other written guidance that may be supplied to me/us.
6. I/We will co-operate as reasonably required with OFSTED and allow persons authorised by OFSTED to interview me/us and visit my /our home at any reasonable time.
7. I/We will keep Norfolk County Council Children's Services informed about the progress of any child placed with me/us and notify the Department of any significant events affecting the child.
8. I/We will allow the child to be removed from my/our home by Norfolk County Council Children's Services or by the Local Authority in whose area I/we live.
9. I/We will notify Norfolk County Council Children's Services immediately of any application made by me/us to foster for another fostering service provider and will, in conjunction with the relevant parties, agree arrangements for any children in placement at that time.
10. I/We undertake to give written notice if I/we wish to cease to be approved as foster carers and understand that such notice will automatically take effect 28 days after it is received by Norfolk County Council Children's Services.
11. I/We understand that Norfolk County Council Children's Services is required to keep records on me/us as approved foster carers (Regulation 30), and that I/we are able to see my/our records upon request. I/We understand that should we make such a request some information supplied by third parties may not be disclosed to us.

I/We understand that a joint record will be kept for couples who are jointly approved foster carers. Should only one partner make an application to see his or her records then that person will not be able to view joint information, or information about the other partner, without the consent of that partner.

I/We hereby give consent to Norfolk County Council Children's Services to keep such records and understand that these will be kept for a period of at least 10 years   
(regulations 32 (1)) following termination of my/our approval.

## **Signed**

(Carer) ………………………………………… Date ………………………

(Print Name) …………………………………………

(Carer) ………………………………………… Date ………………………

(Print Name) …………………………………………

(Family Placement

Team Manager) …………………………………… Date ………………………