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for your own records.

# Foster Carer Charter

Lincolnshire foster carers and Lincolnshire County Council aim to work together to provide good quality foster placements which achieve a safe and fulfilling childhood, stability for the child and satisfaction for the carers.

We believe that children come first and deserve:

- To be consulted and listened to about their own plans and the service they are given
- Experience of a full family life with carers who treat them as they would their own children
- Help to prevent them feeling they stand out because they are looked after
- Carers who can make everyday decisions for them
- Support to develop and maintain their own identity
- Every support and help to fulfil their aspirations and potential
- Opportunities to promote and celebrate their talents and skills
- Stable placements

Lincolnshire County Council believe that foster carers should be at the heart of arrangements for looked after children and are the key to looked after children experiencing positive family life and securing a platform from which they can fulfil their aspirations and potential within their adult lives. We recognise and value our foster carers' role, the relationships they build with our looked after children and the time and energy they dedicate to these children.

Lincolnshire County Council want the valuable job our foster carers do to be as straightforward and rewarding for our carers as possible so we will:

- Recognise in our support and planning for the child and the foster carer that the child's relationship with his or her foster family can make the biggest difference in the child's life and this can endure into adulthood.
- Consult, listen to and involve foster carers in decision making and planning for the children they look after, the support they are provided with and the developments within the fostering service.
- Provide foster carers with full and balanced information about the children they look after before a placement is made.
- Agree individual support packages with our foster carers which take into account the needs of the child and the foster carer. We will regularly review these packages to ensure that the changing needs of the child and foster carers are met.
- Work together with foster carers in an open, fair and respectful manner.
- Include foster carers as a core member of the professional team supporting the child.
- Ensure that foster carers have the support services and developmental opportunities they need to provide the best care to the children they look after.
- Facilitate and encourage local foster carer support groups.
- Ensure that foster carers are given clear information about the support, allowances, fees and holidays they will receive in recompense for their time, skills and dedications and that foster carers are given these quickly.
- Respond quickly to problems raised by foster carers and work together to find and agree a solution.
- Give opportunities and encourage foster carers to share their experiences and views about the support and service they are given.
- Share consultations and feedback from foster carers with councillors and elected members to promote the work of foster carers and negotiate service developments.

Foster carers will:


- Provide positive adult role models

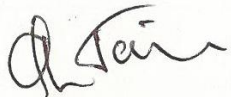
- Treat the foster child as they would their own child
- Advocate for all aspects of the child's development including educational attainment, physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- Co-operate fully as part of team of key professionals in the child's life
- Support their foster child and do all they can to make the placement work
- Take part in learning and development to develop skills and approaches that make a positive impact and enable the child to reach their full potential.
- Help children to counter possible bullying and discrimination as a result to their looked after status
- Facilitate and encourage opportunities for the foster child to participate in activities which promote and celebrate their talents and skills.

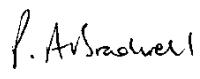
In signing this charter Lincolnshire County Council, the fostering service and the foster carer agrees to reflect the spirit and intentions of the charter in their actions.

1 <sup>st</sup> Applicant Print Name	
1 <sup>st</sup> Applicant Signature	

2 <sup>nd</sup> Applicant Print Name	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Applicant Signature	

Representative of Lincolnshire County Council Name	Janice Spencer
Representative of Lincolnshire County Council Signature	

Representative of Lincolnshire Fostering Service Name	John Harris
Representative of Lincolnshire Fostering Service Signature	

Elected Member with Lead for Children's Services Name	Councillor Patricia Bradwell
Elected Member with Lead for Children's Services Signature	

**Please sign and print your name and return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.**