

# Parent and Child Scheme Foster Carers

## How to contact us

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

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.

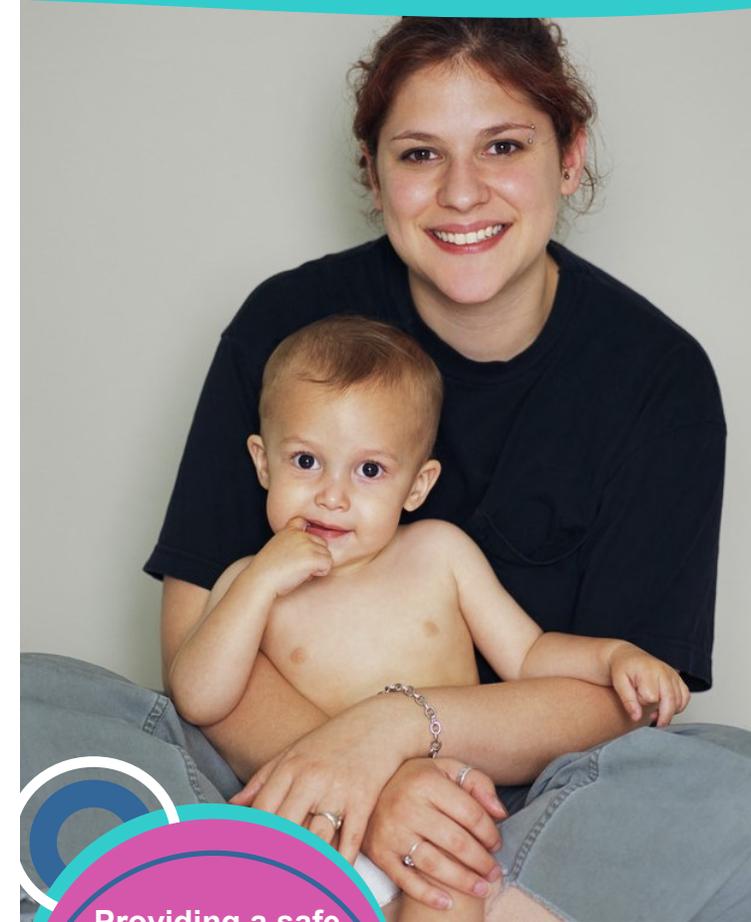
The Parent and Child Fostering Scheme works across the boroughs of **Barnet, Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey and Enfield.**



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.



## The Legal Process:

- Most placement referrals will be commissioned by the Court Officer following Court proceedings or come via the Public Law Outline.
- The Letter of Instruction will detail the specific requirements of the placement
- The child will usually be subject to an Interim Care Order or Section 20 of the Children Act.

## Placements provide:

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 requested where:

- The child may already be subject to a court order or the public law outline process has begun
- The child is believed to be unsafe at home
- 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 are conducted over 12-week periods, with reviews built in approximately monthly.

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

