

The NLAFC Remand Fostering Service Person Specification for Foster Carers

Aim of the Remand Fostering Scheme:

- (i) Provide Courts with a community based alternative to remanded young people going into secure accommodation. This includes Court ordered Remands into Youth Detention Accommodation, by maintaining access to five specialist foster families
- (ii) Provide a high level of supervision for young people assessed as presenting some risk of offending during the remand period.

Remand Scheme Foster Carers:

1. Supervising and caring for young people:

- The ability to understand and provide a high standard supervision and care to 'Looked After' young people on remand which promotes healthy emotional, physical and sexual development as well as their health and educational development.
- An ability to communicate appropriately with people who are important to the child – YOT; school; CAMHS etc
- To facilitate contact with family and friends where appropriate
- To undertake work with young people towards achieving specific goals with appropriate supervision and consultation from team members.
- To manage challenging behaviour, if required, and to help young people develop appropriate social behaviour, encouraging positive behaviour.
- An ability to set appropriate boundaries to manage young people's behaviours.
- A knowledge of young people's development and an ability to communicate with young people appropriate to their age and understanding
- To observe and keep accurate records, separating fact from opinion.
- To promote the educational attainment of looked after young people by ensuring school. College or work attendance, liaising with these establishments, participating in young-person focused events and supporting achievement.

2. Providing a safe and caring environment

- An ability to work within a risk assessment framework
- An ability to help children keep themselves safe from harm or abuse and to teach them to seek help if their safety is threatened
- To support young people to maintain their bail conditions

3. Working as part of a team

- An ability to welcome the young person into your family and to form a real relationship even if only for a short time. To help the young person move on in a positive manner by assisting and supporting them and working alongside the Department's plans.
- An ability to work with other professional people, working to Placement Agreements

and contributing to the individually devised Bail Support programme for the young person. To also contribute to the broader planning for the young person at the Department's planning meetings. To attend any meetings such as medical, education meetings, court and act as advocate for the young person.

- To attend the monthly Remand Foster Carer support meeting, meetings with YOT Team staff, Fostering Social Workers and other professionals.
- An ability to communicate effectively by maintaining written daily recordings and to verbally convey information about young people as required.
- To translate your awareness of discrimination e.g. gender, race, sexuality, social status etc. into anti-discriminatory practice.
- To attend all training as required in the Remand Foster Carer Training Programme.

4. Own development

- To take responsibility for your own development, recognizing your role and abilities and to be able to identify your own training needs.
- The ability to appreciate and reflect of how personal experiences have affected yourself and your family and the impact fostering is likely to have on you all.
- A willingness to share issues experienced in the placements and seek support and help when needed.
- An ability to develop and maintain links within the community which provide support.
- To sustain a positive relationship with the young person and maintain the quality of family life, even in periods of stress To become familiar with the Department's policies and procedures and to work within the legal framework.