

# Swindon Borough Council

## Fostering Service

### Training

#### Introduction

We provide a comprehensive annual training plan comprising of mandatory and additional training to help develop skills and knowledge on caring for children. All Foster Carers are required to undertake no less than 10 hours of development/training activity per year. All Foster Carers will have a Personal Development Plan (PDP). The PDP will be reviewed during supervising visits and updated in preparation for Foster Carer's annual review. The PDP should agree how the Foster Carer will meet the induction, TSD Standards and training requirements. It will identify appropriate training, as well as learning and developmental activities and include timescales for completion.

#### Pre-Approval Training

All our foster carers complete the pre-approval course, Skills to Foster, which explores;

- What do Foster Carers do?
- Identity and life chances
- Working with others
- Understanding children in foster care
- Safer caring
- Transitions

#### Mandatory Training

To be completed within the first year of approval and refreshed every 3 years.

- Child Exploitation
- Child Protection Level 1
- First Aid
- PACE
- Safe Care and Recording
- Understanding and supporting attachment difficulties

#### TSD Standards

The TSD Standards provide a national minimum benchmark that set out what all foster carers should know, understand and be able to do within the first 12 months of approval.

They are designed to:

- Ensure that all foster carers receive relevant induction, training and support and continuing professional development.
- Assist managers and supervisors in assessing the skills, knowledge and experience of foster carers and in identifying their training and development needs.

Fostering provides a vital service to many children who cannot live with their families. It can be demanding and challenging, yet thoroughly rewarding. Foster carers do an amazing job providing support and care to some of the most vulnerable children and young people. To do this effectively, they need knowledge and understanding of the care that children and young people need to achieve their full potential.

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The TSD Standards aim to provide foster carers with:

- A clearer understanding of their role
- Greater confidence and clarity
- An outline of essential knowledge and skills
- Recognition for their developing professionalism
- A pathway to further learning and development

**Additional training**

We actively encourage and support foster carers to develop their skills and knowledge. We have a wide range of additional courses available, either online through the LearnForYou training system or virtual sessions and face to face classroom training.