POLICY FOR FOSTER CARER HOLIDAY RESPITE

1. Full time, active Foster Carers working with Cornerways are able to take 2 weeks paid holiday respite per year (equivalent to 14 nights). This is important rest time for carers to recharge themselves and invest time in themselves, their partner and family. Paid holiday means receiving both the fee and maintenance payment, from which they continue to fund the allowances for the child.

2. Some carers will choose not to take time off or a holiday without their foster child, on the basis they do not feel they need to, or because it would be too detrimental to the child (particularly if it is a baby or a child with attachment issues or a child placed long term).

3. Foster Carers must have fostered a child, or the number of children, for at least 4 months in the current year before being entitled to paid holiday respite during that child’s placement/for that number of children.

4. The 2 weeks paid holiday does not have to be taken all at the same time; carers must give enough notice of the holiday to enable respite carers to be found and the foster child introduced.

5. If possible, a child should have respite with the same respite carer, or a carer that they know.

6. For some carers the young person fostered with them may have significant planned periods of time staying with family and friends that effectively provide the Foster Carer with paid respite, during which they are able to take a holiday.

7. Foster Carers can request further unpaid respite, but must consider the implications for the fostered child and have the agreement of the child’s Social Worker.
8. If a carer is unable to take paid holiday respite, then at Cornerways discretion the carer may receive a payment in lieu of the holiday respite. To receive a payment in lieu of one week’s holiday respite, the carer must have fostered the child/children for 6 months; such requests cannot be requested to be backdated to beyond 12 months.

9. Where a payment is agreed in lieu of a week’s paid holiday respite, this will not include the allowances for the child as they will already have received this in placement.

10. Requests for payment in lieu of holiday respite should be made to the Cornerways Fostering Manager either directly or via their Fostering Social Worker.