

Cornerways Foster Carer Job Description



JOB TITLE:	Foster Carer
JOB LOCATION:	Home- based
REPORTING LINE:	Fostering Social Worker; Fostering Service Manager; Director

This job description reflects expectations written within **Fostering Services & Standards + Regulations 2011**, the **Training and Development Standards (TSDS)** and **Cornerways Fostering Services policies & procedures**.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY:

To provide a safe, caring, healthy and nurturing environment for young people in a way that promotes their well being and development towards maturity and in doing so keeping with the legal framework for children in foster care. To continue to develop one's own skills as a foster Carer through supervision with a fostering social worker and undertaking training identified through an individual development plan.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To support children/young people to achieve positive outcomes in the following areas:
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Resilience
 - Self-esteem
 - Emotional intelligence
 - Control
 - Relationships
 - Achievement
 - Preparation for Adulthood
2. To work in close collaboration and partnership with Cornerways Fostering staff, and external people or organisations linked to the young people in keeping with care and placement plans and court directions.
3. To have regard for the legal, financial, equality & diversity requirements within the fostering task.
4. To develop skills & knowledge in fostering by undertaking appropriate training and development as required.
5. To take responsibility for personal affairs such as finance, tax and one's own and family's health.

MAIN TASKS ...In support of main responsibility 1:

Health:

1. To care for children / young people in ways that provides for and promotes their physical health. This includes modelling a healthy and active lifestyle; routines for food, sleep, etc in a smoke free environment within the home and during transportation. Facilitating access to health practitioners, doctors, dentist, etc.
2. To care for children / young people in ways that promote their mental and emotional well-being. To provide a calm environment to facilitate a time to talk and support in a non-judgmental manner and seek professional help under the guidance of Cornerways social work staff.
3. To provide appropriate information, advice and guidance which enables and supports children / young people in adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles, including sexual health.
4. Inform and support young people in choosing not to take addictive substances, such as alcohol, cigarettes and non-prescription drugs.
5. To have a knowledge of First Aid and ability to contact emergency services.

Safety:

1. To keep children / young people safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence, sexual exploitation within the foster home and as far as is possible in the community and online.
2. To keep children / young people safe from accidental injury / harm within the foster home, garden, car, etc by ensuring that health & safety is maintained as directed by Cornerways Fostering Service.
3. To endeavour to keep young people safe from bullying and discrimination.
4. To endeavour to keep young people safe from crime, anti-social behaviour and sexual exploitation
5. To endeavour to keep young people safe from the risk of radicalisation.
6. To take appropriate guidance and or action when a child / young person becomes at risk.

Achievement:

1. To ensure that a child / young person is encouraged to value school and education by being punctual and attending regularly. The Foster Carer is expected to attend all school meetings and events associated with education.
2. To support children / young people to achieve appropriate education standards and attainments by reading together, setting time for homework completion and providing a space for this to be achieved and where necessary facilitate extra tuition within the home.
3. To support and encourage children / young people to achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreational activities. To include enrolling children / young people in clubs and activities, going to watch their activities and encouraging any special talents.

Resilience, self-esteem, emotional intelligence, relationships:

1. To provide security, stability and an environment that values a child's / young person's contributions by supporting age appropriate responsibilities and praise.
2. To support and encourage children / young people in making a positive contribution to the decision making process that affects their lives through day to day choices, attending meetings and learning to reflect on choices and consequences.
3. To support and encourage children / young people to behave in law abiding ways.
4. To support and encourage young people in developing and sustaining positive relationships with their peers and adults.
5. To support and encourage children / young people to develop self confidence, resilience and problem solving skills so they can deal with transitions, life changes and challenges.
6. To ensure the best possible relationships with the children / young peoples' families including working within the agreed contact arrangements.
7. To engage with the wider community, e.g. school, clubs & volunteering and in particular in their religious beliefs where appropriate.

Preparation for Adulthood:

1. To assist the young person to engage in further education, training, apprenticeship or employment after leaving school.
2. To assist young people in preparation towards adult life, emotionally as well as practically.
3. To assist young people to become financially literate by educating them to understand money from an early age, e.g. opening bank accounts in order that they can save regularly.
4. Support young people to obtain passports, driving licenses, etc.

In Support of Main Responsibility 2:

1. To ensure good working relationships within Cornerways Fostering Services through proactive and open communication, including informing Cornerways Fostering Services of any changes within the family or household circumstances and using the Out of Hours service where necessary.
2. To work with social workers and other agencies as required including participation in multi-professional meetings. Maintaining and sharing records.
3. To participate in regular supervision with a fostering social worker and follow plans as directed.

In Support of Main Responsibility 3:

1. To promote equal opportunities with a commitment to the principle of equality and valuing diversity regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or age.
2. To assist children / young people's religious development in keeping with their own and their family's religious and cultural beliefs.
3. To understand and follow the legal requirements of fostering.
4. To maintain the child's / young person's file in accordance with Cornerways Fostering Services policies and procedures.
5. To provide written and/ or verbal information to other professionals as required.
6. To complete daily / weekly records for each placement and pass onto the fostering social worker.
7. To provide adequate insurance cover for the home, transport and overseas travel.

In Support of Main Responsibility 4:

1. To participate in all basic training courses: child protection, first aid, attachment & record keeping.
2. To attend other appropriate training courses, carer groups & events.
3. To complete the TSDS induction within the required time frame of the first year of fostering.

In Support of Main Responsibility 5:

1. To successfully manage personal, financial and tax affairs arising from all fostering activities and notify Cornerways Fostering Services immediately of any change in circumstances that could impact upon fostering.
2. To be aware of and manage one's own health and that of family members living in the household and notify Cornerways Fostering Services of any serious changes that could affect fostering.

General

1. To inform and seek help from Cornerways Fostering Services with any concerns relating to a fostered child / young person or any impediment to fulfilling the expectations of the role of the foster Carer.

Parent and Child/Baby Placements

To understand the particular expectations and tasks of this type of placement, undertake appropriate training and fulfil the specific tasks reflected in placement plans and the progression of evidence for court.