

FOSTER CARER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

INTRODUCTION

The training/accreditation pathway for both new and existing carers has been developed to provide structured training and a career pathway for all carers who are approved Foster Carers for West Sussex County Council. The training offered in this calendar is also available to Adopters, Supported Lodgings Providers and Family and Friends Carers.

The development pathway links training and skills/knowledge/attitudes to the different accreditation levels.

Moving through the Levels depends on:

- The carer evidencing the knowledge and skills they have and the attitudes they hold. Your Family Placement Social Worker can help you with this. (Refer to Tasks/Skills Profile)
- The training that the carer has completed.
- Resolution of any concerns, complaints and investigations in order that West Sussex County Council is satisfied with the outcome and that the requirements of the National Minimum Standards are met.
- A vacancy being available at that level and for your specific approval.

The process is as follows:

- When a carer seeks to move from one level to another, their application (portfolio) will be presented to the County Fostering Accreditation Panel.
- Application forms are available from your Family Placement Social
- The panel will consider in all cases:
 - a) The carer's application form
 - b) The carer's last annual review
 - c) Written comments from the carer's Family Placement Social Worker and team manager
 - d) Any additional evidence submitted by carers or the department.
- Carers are not invited to present personally at panel.
- If panel considers any further evidence is necessary it will specify what is required.
- If there are no vacancies at the level and for the carers' approval their names will be put onto a waiting list and be brought to the County Fostering Accreditation Panel with others when a vacancy occurs. The Foster Carer will be informed in writing of the panel decision.

The composition of the County Fostering Accreditation Panel is as follows:

- Foster Care Service Manager (Chair)
- Learning and Development Manager
- Two WSCC Foster Carers (one at Level III or IV, one representing UFCA)
- Three Family Placement staff (one from each Fostering Team)