

## Fostering Service

Approach	How parents / carers have a voice and influence	What works well	Challenges faces
<p>Foster Carers (of all types and approval) are integral to the development of the Fostering Service. We have a range of established and developing routes for carers to provide their views – to the service , to leadership and corporately. Foster Carers are considered as ‘stakeholders’ and have active voice and influence via established forums through nominated representatives from support groups and by invitation from service to participate in service developments. The Service works closely with the independent Leeds Foster Carer Association (LFCA) and their representatives to assist with their efforts to promote Leeds fostering and assist with maximising good outcomes for the children and young people they care for.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation to the Foster Carer Liaison Group (FCLG) from LFCA and carers elected from their support groups. FCLG has Leadership, Corporate Carer (Cllr), Fostering Service Management and Staff representation plus Health, Voice and influence, Virtual School. Carer reps set their own agenda for the meeting.</li> <li>• As carer stakeholders in established reviewing of aspects of fostering service (e.g. annual review of financial support to carers arrangements) and as stakeholders in new service developments (e.g. Staying Put Policy – former foster carers continuing to support young people age 18 -21yrs)</li> <li>• Via representation at Corporate Carers and by invitation to other forums / developments e.g. New Belongings</li> <li>• Individual views of carers are sought periodically from service via survey’s and from their support groups.</li> <li>• Incorporation of care stakeholder views in the Fostering Service Development Plan</li> </ul>	<p>FCLG as an established route for carer voice and influence, particularly on service policy development and leadership awareness of concerns to carers</p> <p>Carers as ‘stakeholders’ in service considerations and actions regarding range of fostering service developments - a Partnership approach assisting with maximising good outcomes for the children / young people they care for</p>	<p>Given the size of the Service (c 700 approved foster carer households) ensuring that as many carer views as possible are encouraged, including those outside established formal forums and representation.</p>