

Fostering Short Stays

What is fostering short stays?

Short stay foster carers offer planned short stay care to children up to the age of 11 under Sec 17 to give families a break and will give children the opportunity to build positive relationships with a fostering family, take part in family activities and have fun.

Fostering short stays aims to offer early intervention and support to families to prevent family breakdown at a later stage and can consist of day care and/or sleepover care for up to 2 nights (i.e., Friday to Sunday).

For most families the support offered will be limited to one weekend per month.

Fostering short stays is not an emergency service and all short stays will be planned, i.e., agreement on a 6 month support package of monthly planned weekend visits.

Fostering short stays carers are approved foster carers.

Who can access Fostering short stays?

- Any child up to the age of 11 who is allocated to a social worker/family support worker in Intensive Family Support Team (IFST) or are open on a CIN or CP plan in family safeguarding teams.
- The support will be part of a support plan for the family and needs to have a clear purpose and be agreed by child and parents.
- No child can have more than a total of 75 nights away from home per year.

What support can short stays carers offer families?

- The short stays carers will build a relationship with a child and their family and offer planned regular sleepovers, e.g., one weekend per month and or planned day care, e.g., at the weekend.
- Consistency and relationships are important, so the family will be linked up with a short stays carer who will offer this regular planned support to the family.

Requests will be made via P.A.R.P panel and , if agreed, a prf will be completed under the support section and sent to brokerage.