

FosterWiki®



THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

Question 17 Additional Comments

I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to The Independent Foster Carer's Survey 2024 powered by FosterWiki Ltd.

We appreciate all the Foster Carers/Carers' time in completing this survey as it is your voice that needs to be heard to help raise the outcomes for the children and young people we care for.

The survey was completed by current or carers who have left fostering in the last 5 years.

The question was as follows:

“How well did the training and access to the information you were given before you were approved prepare you for the fostering role?”

2317 people answered this question and left 404 additional comment responses.

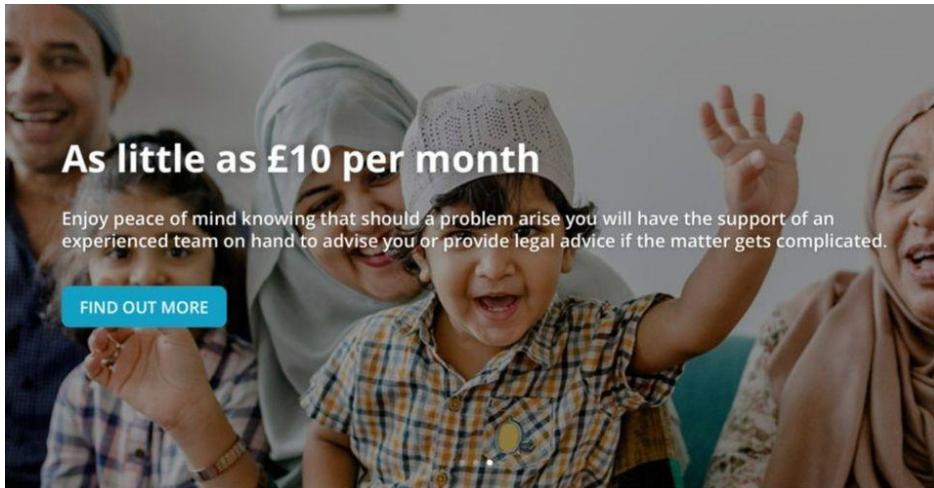


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2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. Quite well at the start of the fostering journey. But then repeating the same training every three years is repetitive.
2. Still learning 12 years down the line.
3. Painted a fluffy, warm experience to come. Only vaguely touched on behaviour or allegations.
4. Rubbish. I've learnt more off the internet.
5. Absolutely no training on the complications of working with birth parents.
6. Been a carer for almost 30 years. Training and support are much better then.
7. We didn't even know about child-in-care meetings or what an EHCP was.
8. It felt adequate when I started. However, being more experienced and having dealt with many situations I feel different. I've learnt more through the situations and researching myself. Some carers will and have left facing half of what I have.
9. Lots missing, but the main part that was skipped over was understanding ACEs and our responses to that trauma.
10. The child didn't have complex needs, but another placement would have been a different story
11. You can never be fully prepared.
12. Training did not fully cover emotional intelligence and support structures.
13. Skills to foster and safeguard course.
14. In fairness how much can you do when so little time is allocated.
15. I first joined a fostering company called resolutions. it was for teenagers who were giving a chance to be fostered rather than going into the prison system. we were trained to a very high standard but they disbanded after six months so we moved to the LA that was attached to it. That's when our troubles started.
16. The majority of training was done after approval.
17. I think Fostering changes course would be better.
18. I was brought up in a fostering household so felt I learned through experience.
19. No one said the allegation policy would be used to abuse foster carers. Or every time a teenager disagreed with you that would be an allegation. Or that the panel are allowed to discriminate against someone with disabilities.
20. Nobody can be fully prepared for fostering regardless of how much training and information is given. Every day is a learning day.
21. We did not know lots of things we have discovered over the time we have fostered.
22. Very little training or info beforehand. Didn't hear from the IFA at all throughout the 5 months form F. We then fostered 5 children in respite over the 1st 6 weeks and didn't hear from a SW once in that time.
23. I did not need preparation as I previously fostered, and I am a fostering social worker.
24. Been approved for nearly 30 years so memory fades!
25. The Skills to Foster course was hijacked by a couple wanting promises they could take each child to Morrocco on their yearly holiday, which came up in every single topic. I have yet to take a child to Morrocco.
26. It was 30 years ago

27. There is no substitute for lived experience, and the reality of dealing with issues 24 hours a day, every day.
28. I think there should be attachment training in there.
29. Reality can be a shock.
30. However, like any professional role you learn on the job.
31. Reality is very different.
32. Fed a false story and not given realistic expectations of what to or not to expect. Sold to us and peaches and cream when actually it's the complete opposite.
33. When I changed to LA, I had been fostering for 13 years but found the skills to foster didn't go into allegations at all, the trainer told me she didn't want to frighten people off.
34. What was promised never materialised. They never followed the placement plan or kept us updated. Most promises were only verbal too.
35. A lot was beefed up to sound good and not truthful.
36. Could have been more honest.
37. I don't think anything fully prepares you until you actually do it.
38. Unfortunately you only learn through experience. We came into this for personal reasons which SW were completely aware of. They know that what we hoped for is virtually impossible to actually what you get, but they don't care other than their own agenda.
39. Cannot care for foster children how you parent your own children. 3 days of training are wholly inadequate at the start of fostering career. Was with LA initially.
40. In at the deep end, hit the ground running
41. However my previous experience working in residential childcare meant that I was equipped for the task. Others without a similar background I felt were sent into the task ill-prepared.
42. You learn on the job!! Nothing prepares you as your children did not suffer trauma. At the same time when they do advise you, they only have one method for the child even though all children's wants and needs are different. Often, I have told them this, but they just do to want to know.
43. Not well at all!
44. Nothing can truly prepare you for what's in store! I would steer away from too much more in the Journey to Foster as it's hard to assimilate everything at that point. Rather, give significant additional support in the first 12 months to avoid being overwhelmed and resigning!
45. Looking after teenagers with trauma was very difficult without understanding the behaviour
46. I was with another agency before this one
47. This was over 40 years ago, and it was mostly the experience of carers we heard. Children's mental health or trauma was not so recognised.
48. But nothing can prepare you really until you are actually doing the role. I think all new carers should start with respite to ease them in.
49. Nothing really prepares you. I have been better informed using forums etc.
50. I think the information and training for new carers is diabolical and does not help them face what can happen.



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