

FosterWiki®



THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

Question 4 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.

Question was as follows:

“As a foster carer do you think that your fostering service's Ofsted/Care Inspectorate rating reflects your experiences on the front line?”

2449 people answered this question and left 388 additional comment responses.



All comments are the opinions of the people who have made them and do not represent the opinion of FosterWiki Ltd. FosterWiki has only supplied a limited number of comments. A full list can be requested for research purposes or official Government use. Any application will be considered on its merit. These comments or any part of this document cannot be used as part of any publication in any form either electronic, written or any other medium without the express written permission of FosterWiki Ltd.

2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. Good, but not 'Outstanding'
2. My LA has recently been reviewed and comments were good about the fostering service, but
3. acknowledged the difficulties in retention/recruitment of social workers for the children and the fostering team and asked that the LA look at how they can help with this to help some consistency for the children/foster parents.
4. I have no idea how they manage to obtain the results they get and can only assume they look good on paper and are not talking to a broad selection of individuals who have different and shared experiences.
5. Our LA only chooses foster carers that follow their lead.
6. Report is more impressive than practice.
7. Not at all I've found that paperwork can be falsified or swept under the carpet. If someone in authority has negative feedback it's suddenly the carers' fault.
8. Recently inspected fostering services are good.
9. Beyond belief how they can cover up issues for inspection weeks.
10. They have an outstanding Ofsted rating, however trying to obtain mental health services and support is close to impossible due to CAHMS being overwhelmed.
11. No Idea what the rating is so put sometimes could do with question do you know.
12. Latest Ofsted report said management placing children in unregistered home's putting them at risk.
13. They don't seem to be bothered about it themselves but are quick to criticise carers for minor issues
14. We the carers are what makes the agency what it is and we are good.
15. Failing Ofsted report and LA on the verge of special measures.
16. I personally spoke to them about my many concerns and failings of my LA. I made them aware of placement issues, children not being matched properly Carers not being told the whole truth about the children at the placement meetings, my youngest child was placed with me alongside his brother and another child already in my care against the advice of a therapist who was working with them before they came to me. she had stated that he be a single placement because of his violent tendencies, I wasn't told any of this and was only privy to the report recently. This is a serious safeguarding issue, a few incidents that happened could have been avoided if they had listened to the therapist. and been upfront with us. we could have taken precautions. very challenging children being placed with brand new carers nine times out of ten that child is set up to fail and end up being moved from place to place through no fault of their own and carers leaving because they feel overwhelmed and unsupported. The LA only steps in when things are not working out but sadly it's already too late by this time assessments for the children are not done in a timely manner I had to fight for six years to get help for my youngest foster child.
17. Not applicable as we are in Scotland
18. Currently our LA have the Care Commission in so a more up-to-date rating will be published shortly.

19. Failing Ofsted report, support is not too bad.
20. When things go wrong they deny all knowledge
21. I have no idea what rating they have
22. Don't know what their ratings are
23. In Scotland it is care commission standards. I feel in some areas our service does not perform well but they always seem to do ok in inspections.
24. They got Good which is not something I would agree with.
25. We are told we can have 23 nights respite but in reality struggle to receive it due to the agency not paying sufficiently for carers to want to do respite. Even the mockingbird hub carers refuse respite to many families in their constellation and choose only to take the 'easier' children.
26. Inadequate support from inexperienced SSWs not being able to challenge local authority.
27. Noticeable flurry of action from agency with 8m of supervision/child progress reports the week before Ofsted came out, and a sudden keen interest in trying to work out when children had last been to the dentist.
28. The report I found was needs improvement other than the progress of children which is down to carers largely.
29. Northern Ireland does not have any inspect of fostering services.
30. Bullying managers who treat foster carers like dirt
31. Ofsted not applicable in Scotland.
32. How many people KNOW their fostering service's Ofsted rating?
33. Poor Ofsted, very poor service.
34. Awaiting current OFSTED report
35. Room for improvement
36. Our LA told us they would share the latest result for the inspection.. surprisingly they didn't share it. I looked it up and read the last two and both were quite bad and could see and relate to why. Our YPs ccsw is an absolute nightmare for communication and has tried to force him to do something he said he didn't want to do. Their answer to improving things were to bring in managers at a huge expense.
37. Ours have failed on so my levels.
38. We don't have OFSTED in Scotland. Perhaps reframe the question to be inclusive for other countries.
39. They don't ask questions that truly test the service.
40. Definitely the not! They most certainly are not getting it right for every child and they are most certainly not interested in keeping children safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, etc etc it's just whatever fits their narrative of the day regardless of the impact on these poor kids.
41. On the surface our IFA appears very good but dig deeper it only really cares about profit. If it costs the IFA Carers and children's needs are not considered.
42. Lack of staff. Lack of help. Lack of most things
43. Definitely a lack of communication
44. Whilst Ofsted was requires improvement, there were many areas that were not highlighted and foster carers views ignored
45. They got outstanding and are nowhere near that!

46. Lack of communication Poor management Trainers not turning up at training sessions Don't work as a team Don't treat foster carers as professionals.
47. Our fostering service Ofsted is always higher than the children and families' side.
48. They have managed to get improved rating from being adequate but no foster carer can understand it.
49. We work so hard and social workers expecting us to do more of their work. as well as dealing with difficult children.
50. I don't think they are as good as the Ofsted report states.



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