

# FosterWiki®



## THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

### Question 6 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:

*“In the past year have you wanted to raise a concern but felt unable to do so?”*

2449 people answered this question and left 408 additional comment responses.



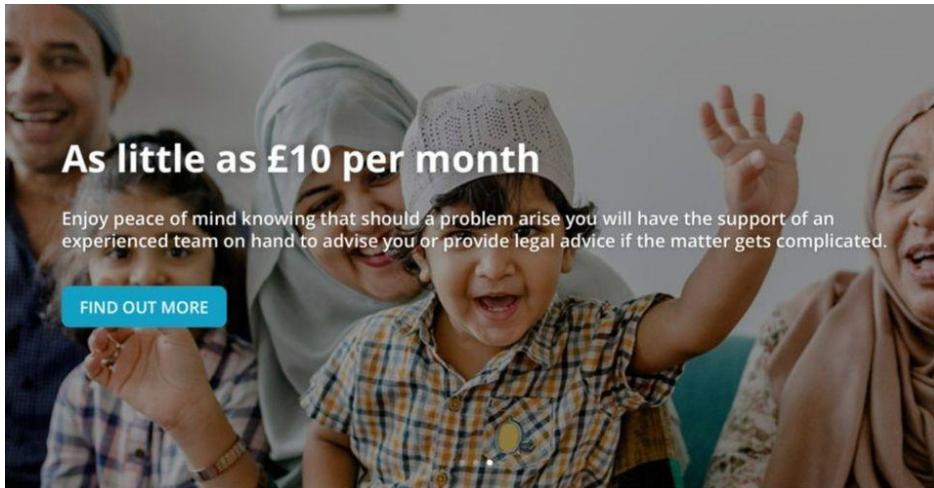
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## 2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. But if you bring a complaint. You will have a allegation or standards of care come against you. I was left waiting 6 weeks for medical consent and Delegated Authority paperwork. I have young people who also have no dentist, I was contacting dentists on daily basis found one who says they will see young people straight away with referral from social worker but nothing. I have mentioned a private consultation and had no feedback from this either.
2. I now say whatever needs to be raised but largely ignored.
3. I always raise concerns, they're rarely listened to
4. Service manager bullying and gaslighting.
5. Fear of reproductions like the last time.
6. Somehow it comes back on us every time." From lack of supervision " or "You didn't ask for support loud enough "
7. No point just causes problems for ourselves.
8. I am beyond being afraid now. We have fought tooth and nail for the children in our care, all professionals we have worked with hold us in high esteem and are not afraid voice this in meetings.
9. We are dealing with a lot in regard to our young people. I don't have the extra energy required to put in a complaint. It would probably just add to stress levels and ultimately not solve anything. Also, from experience, carers who do put in complaints then tend to be over scrutinised and feel as if they are under a microscope.
10. Not felt unable but more so of "what's the point"
11. Under normal employment, we would have had a reason to take LA to tribunal on THREE occasions in just 2 years.
12. A number of concerns regarding dad practice and blatant not following regulations.
13. We are always happy to raise concerns but don't usually get a satisfactory response
14. Felt fearful they would take the children or as when I once raised a complaint the relationship with social worker became terrible.
15. We are now fostering a child with significant mental health and disabilities on only the basic allowance. The LA actually pay £200 per wk more for a child in the same category of need. We tried to raise it with the manager but were dismissed.
16. I've raised them but I have NUPC membership, a great ssw, great nursery and great IRO in my corner.
17. Making a complaint can make you feel like a targets for managers on the children's team
18. Re medicals , where does the data go, and who sees it.
19. Not unable, but see no point as concerns of bad practice held against us.
20. But I have had to persevere and constantly tried to get the best outcome for a young care leaver.
21. I think twice now about raising a concern as the blowback would result in me being bullied by social workers.
22. It's scary because you know that if they don't like what you're saying or raising awareness about then you could have a negative review or complaint made about you or the children moved because I'm not working in partnership

23. A previous concern I had a couple of years ago was not taken seriously so I don't see the point in raising further concerns.
24. Well, I've raised concerns in the past but zero was done about it , everyone hides behind GDPR or other regulation/law.
25. Because of the above
26. Because I know it won't be taken seriously or it will be brushed under the carpet. Only for the issues to all happen again.
27. We have raised concerns but felt confident our company (Heathfarm) would deal with the concerns.
28. I did in the end raise it but it caused me so much stress, which should not have happened. I have made complaints on behalf of the child with LA but they are never actioned. We have been waiting for a CAMHSs referral for 2 years. School say its been twice but on the NHS system. LS SW never chase up, this is out of date EHCP!!!!
29. I raised concerns and was held accountable.
30. Have no social workers for support
31. Yes, it was about the LA social worker but I was concerned they would move the child.
32. Raising concerns can mean you can be without a placement for a long period.
33. I've raised concerns and in writing
34. Fear of above
35. I had a social worker give me a like warm reference even though I had done everything possible for the child. Even advocating the child's needs in transition I was told that the adopters were listening to me more and they thought this brought a bad light to them. They felt insecure. Nothing was ever done about the social worker. She further shouted and doing a tantrum when I asked her to rearrange his adoption medical by a week as it was covid days and he was to go and get his cleft palate repaired. But she was so focused on her tick boxes that the child's need for covid safety (as the operation would be postponed once travelled 3 hours to the hospital) would had he had covid 2 days before at the adoption medical. But nothing was ever done about it even though I expressed how vital it was for his op. Even after the adoption medical they dragged their heels for months afterwards to find adopters etc. so what was the hurry and putting the child's needs last!!
36. You always feel that you are in a defensive position and having to justify almost everything Any past issues are never forgotten and brought up at every opportunity.
37. Social workers close ranks around each other and stick up for one another and I have experienced legal documents being changed to suit what they wanted.
38. Frightened of the consequences. If u complain u can feel that u could put yourself in a vulnerable situation.
39. This was with the local authority who were absolutely horrendous. I've been with an IFA for a year and it could not be more different.
40. Due to lack of communication
41. You are lucky if the social workers actually get back to you when you have an issue let alone anything else.

42. As part of The association and due to building relationships and better communication with service colleagues, I will now raise concerns as needed with relevant service colleague
43. I am part of a union so I feel protected from the internal investigations process.
44. I sit on the LA steering group and LA parenting board so make sure any concerns I have are heard.
45. If you are in a mockingbird hub, it's not easy to get a complaint outside without, hitting barriers and they don't want to upset the hub or change carers!
46. Absolutely, said want us to be advocates for our children, but lo and behold if you dare to make any suggest that they have not thought of or don't agree with. As SW then deem you are difficult!
47. They can make it difficult if you do and don't place anyone else with you.
48. Yes. Either weighing up the risk against desired outcome or pure fear of more chaos and nastiness.
49. Following our investigation we are still very unhappy with things so much so we are transferring
50. away. We want to complain further but are concerned about doing so in case our transfer is jeopardised.
51. My LA has a fostering association who are very competent and with their guidance I've felt very comfortable confronting various people with concerns.



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### FosterWiki Toolkits



FosterWiki New Foster Carers Toolkit



FosterWiki Fostering Teenagers Toolkit



FosterWiki Toolkit for New Social Workers



FosterWiki Toolkit for Top Ten Tips

Vist our toolkits at [FosterWiki.com](https://FosterWiki.com)