

# FosterWiki®



## THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

### Question 7 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 been overlooked or deliberately excluded from inputting your knowledge of your foster child's needs into any planning or review meeting held by other members of the team around the child?”*

2449 people answered this question and left 483 additional comment responses.



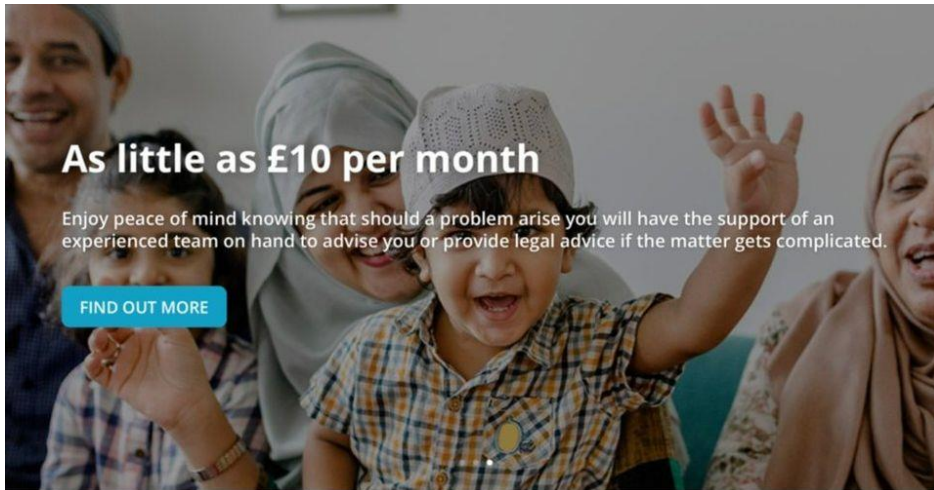
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## 2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. I do short-term fostering as well as respite/emergency and have not been invited to any of the regular respite young people reviews and I have flagged this up with my SSW and at my latest review.
2. I have had regular input for my short-term fostering young person.
3. Contact review meetings- resulted in plans being put in place that have destabilised the placement due to the decision taken.
4. They know that I would state my case.
5. In a study to see which Family they were going to assess to adopt my foster boy, they visited the other family and didn't visit me or speak to my daughter as they already know me through fostering.
6. Always excluded from planning meetings and ignored when wanting to maintain contact with previous foster children.
7. Our young person's younger brother was in a poor placement and there were discussions to place him with us. Oddly, our input was ignored until escalated.
8. Our agency thrives off a trauma-only response and this meant they failed the YP by ignoring ADHD and neurological needs diagnosed by health professionals.
9. My views have often been overlooked and overruled.
10. Decisions made by SW about birth family contact.
11. Last resort for answers from LA SW who does not know the child herself.
12. As previously one year is not long enough.
13. Whilst advocating for the children strongly, we have been termed aggressive.
14. We are not always invited to the 'professional' meetings. This is wrong.
15. Always excluded from the professional meetings.
16. In order to cover poor practice, I was left out of decision-making.
17. We are both experienced foster carers and confident. We are included in all reviews and meetings and our views are sought prior to reviews etc.
18. Not in the last year but in the last 3 years.
19. Carers' input doesn't matter.
20. A former foster child wanted me as part of his life, and I was still providing respite. I was classed as "just the respite carer".
21. We were left out of various meetings as these meetings were for 'the professionals only'.
22. Professional meetings are for professionals we just have to do the work they decide needs doing.
23. Excluded from hearings.
24. Usually by the time the foster carer is listened to it is too little too late and the placement is in crisis.
25. Adoptions I have been withdrawn from the meetings. I have been told that some meetings are
26. sometimes for professionals only.
27. When the teen YP attacked us and the home, there were placement stability meetings as we were prepared to work on mending things with the hope of her returning. This is what her LA SW wanted.

28. But our agency deliberately held meetings before the scheduled ones we were invited to and froze us out of the process. They gave notice on our behalf even though we never had. We had 2 very good years with YP who had made more progress than ever before.
29. I don't think that my agency understood the complex needs of the children and didn't push for an improved package to enable me to support them better.
30. Not inviting to a professional meeting where I had valuable input.
31. I feel as a foster carer I am constantly overlooked by social workers, and I am not allowed to have a say in the child's is young person care needs.
32. One of the school tries but I try harder!!
33. We spent 3 months over the summer when we were not consulted on plans to reintroduce family time. Family time was then a disaster and we bore the brunt of the child's distressed behaviour. The social workers didn't care as they didn't have to live with the behaviour.
34. Most communications between the LA and my SSW don't include me, I'm on a need to know basis which basically means I don't need to know.
35. But that doesn't mean we were listened to, or our concerns acted upon
36. Have been excluded from "Professionals" meetings.
37. Reunification back to birth family and I was never invited to any meetings excluded from team around child meetings even though the Reunification was being kept and guided by myself!
38. Maybe not in the last year, but not so long ago. I find if you're advocating too vociferously for a child, you're simply ignored. Where are meant to go next? There no truly independent monitor of such activities.
39. However, I made my views very strongly known and plans were changed
40. Breakdown of a 12-year placement due to lack of promised support, understanding from them of the type of therapy needed, we were not invited to the disruption meeting or any other meeting after.
41. Have not had a lac or tact meeting for child in placement for over two years.
42. Due to lack of social worker contact
43. At the end of the placement I asked for a TAC meeting last year, it turned out to be a consult review which I didn't ask for. In this meeting, I wasn't listened to especially when I was explaining the child's wishes and feelings.
44. Was told I am not a relevant person.
45. We have had a wee one straight for hospital at 3 months old she in now 4 with medical and emotional needs they want to adopt her with a sibling 9 months old with different carer together these YP have never lived to better only see each other 1 hr every other week we have said we would take both up on but have not been acknowledged for this.
46. I am a professional person with a childcare degree. I know how to talk to other professionals and advocate for my young people. I also know the limitations. Some things are difficult because of parental responsibility but having good relationships has been key.
47. Never invited to CLA reviews or get minutes as respite carers, placement breaks down and we weren't kept in the loop. We could have helped more.
48. Anytime school is involved or there are "professional" only meetings.
49. Because I'm 'not a professional'.

50. Some social workers are still of the opinion that foster carers do not have the professional skills to determine the best course of action for the child in their care. This cannot be true in all cases and some foster carers come with a wide breadth of knowledge, skills and experience in the needs of a Foster child, this is too often dismissed and overlooked. Thankfully there is usually someone else within a SW team which we've been able to reach out to and raise any issues or concerns.



<https://nupfc.com/>

### 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)