

FosterWiki®



THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

Question 9 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:

“Are you given all available information about your child at the start of the placement?”

2449 people answered this question and left 580 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

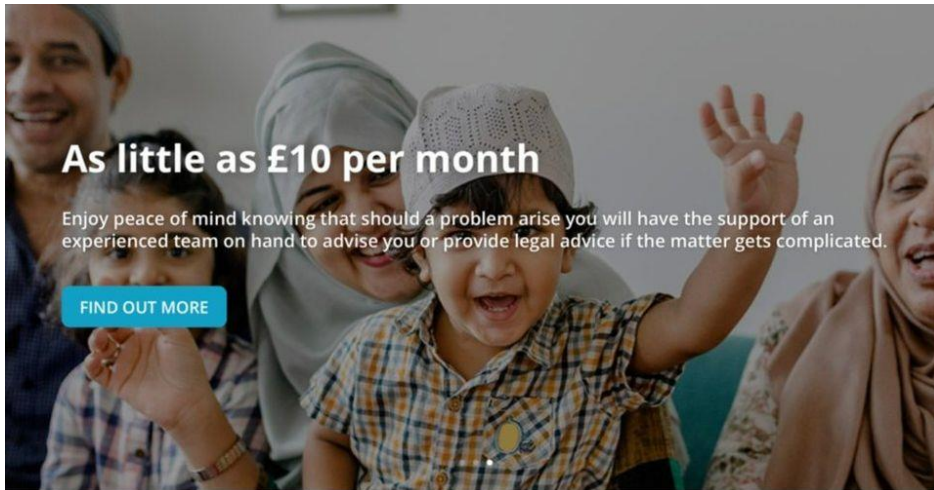
1. On the emergency placements, I am given the most basic of information as they don't always have much available. For my short-term fostering YP, I was given it all, plus given the opportunity to meet him a few times prior to setting a move-in date. For the respite placements, it's been hit and miss but I have been able to get additional information from the foster carers.
2. Often found important information withheld and very often the child arrives before the information.
3. Very poor on this and either leave information out or lie.
4. No, I tried for 1.5 years to get the siblings' health concerns out of them so I could be better informed but still nothing.
5. We had a placement alongside another young person who was extremely risky to kids this was left out of all discussions and paperwork until it was unfortunately too late, and incidents had occurred.
6. This isn't thorough enough.
7. Yes, the child is in school... Really the child was in school 1.5 hours a day.
8. This has gotten worse over the years as there have been less available foster carer placements.
9. No, we were not.
10. I know the IFA chase this.
11. There generally isn't ever enough background on the children and SWs only have limited time to gather the information There are occasions when not all information is shared as it might affect your decisions for talking placements.
12. Extremely poor handover between local authorities and agencies.
13. No medical handover which has caused the delay in the child receiving the required appointments.
14. Not always. We should be told everything but aren't.
15. Sometimes, but often it has gaps or completely incorrect information... it's like Chinese whispers that get distorted on the way to us.
16. With our first few foster children we were. with our last two, no we were completely lied to. They told us like they liked rough play, when in fact they were totally violent to each other. the introductions were rushed over a week, and they were placed with us. As stated previously their therapist advised they be separated and the eldest a single placement. we were forced to give notice after 11 months when the youngest sibling nearly suffocated his brother. I heard a small sound early hours of the morning and went to investigate. If I had not heard the sound, I believe he would have not been here today. We were both traumatised by this happening. The youngest was quickly moved and the way they did this traumatised us further. Both boys went on a week-long holiday and only one came back, there were no goodbyes just a social worker coming to collect his things. we agreed to keep his brother until a good match could be made. We still have him today because we couldn't let him be moved from place to place as this is what happened to his brother, 12 placements and now in residential care. we feel we let him

down massively, but the true fact is the system is what's letting these vulnerable traumatised children down time and time again,

17. We hardly knew anything and the LASW had not shared important info that we later discovered.
18. In Recent placement we were provided with a half-written report. It omitted to mention things such as sexualised behaviour and the child had a metal plate in his wrist after a breakage.
19. I have had a child placed that does not resemble the child I was given information on.
20. Documentation is tied into the it system, so if someone hasn't ticked their box, no info.
21. Still waiting on reports from over a year ago.
22. Only information given is what they think will make you take placement. They do not inform you of risks so you know what dangers to look out for. When it goes wrong it's your fault.
23. We may be told we are given all information but 9 times out of 10 this is not the case.
24. We have had several placements where information has come to light after it has started.
25. I always find out more by accident - by guardians usually.
26. Definitely not. Not told about previous signifant violent attacks on carers.
27. I don't think that the agency always gets the full information about the children so they can't pass it on.
28. The YP were unaccompanied minors. The LA did not disclose that the YP was in the habit of smoking in the bedroom while he was in a hostel.
29. Sometimes the local authority do not have much information.
30. I still have no paperwork for my placement who went home in May last year.
31. I was told can't reveal as court ordered, So SW's new office knew, but Foster Carers who's home the YP is coming to cannot be told, even if it could put members of the family at risk.
32. Only had one placement but lots of gaps in what we were told.
33. No never only find out when the child is going for adoption and you find things out you never knew but adopters are told only caring for the child for nearly two years.
34. It's often not possible to provide all the information but I also feel that we get a positive spin of the child to increase the chance of accepting the placement and it takes experience to interpret what we are being told.
35. As far as I have been told.
36. Sometimes we hear relevant information about the child after the placement has been running for some time. People sometimes pick and choose what they want to reveal.
37. Local authority, Placements Team often withhold or do not know. Vital information regarding children such as medical conditions and regular medication behaviours and risks.
38. No but then when a new foster carer takes a child for the first time and all these things aren't explained, told what you can/can't have access to. I have not been told about a consult for months and months. Long-term fc.
39. The placement form is never complete. Sadly, it is a sales pitch usually trying to find a suitable placement.
40. Recently we had a child in an emergency who we were told came from fostering but actually came from residential. The previous week supervising social worker witnessed her playing with fire. Previous foster Carers had concerns about fire. Placement ended after 7 days at 3 am after

she set fire to hair, burnt arms with lighters, did ligatures round neck, set fire to the house and threw oil over myself and husband and tried to set fire to us. Not given any risk assessment and care plan 2 years old.

41. Seven years in and still don't know all the background. Making g it difficult to answer questions on health.
42. I was given a child only to find out a week later the child needed inhalers and wasn't told this.
43. They didn't even get his name or date of birth correct, and virtually no background info.
44. Very rare as often told there is limited information, the truth comes out weeks after.
45. Often comes afterwards or months later when you read it in a children's hearing document.
46. Always intentionally withheld vital information so more likely to take a child. It's common practice.
47. Lies of omission, they hope you have had the children long enough to bond with them before issues arise.
48. Absolutely disgraceful lack of info on the last placement which missed Three episodes of sexualised behaviour The child had been diagnosed with ADHD the week before arriving the child had a metal plate, but we were encouraged to pursue sports such as Judo, Rugby, Boxing etc.
49. I get told a small little played-down snippet of things. For instance, the boy we have had for a year has significant medical needs and was told he had a convulsion previously due to high temp when in reality he has epilepsy with up to 100 seizures a day and is on 5 different medications!
50. Very little background knowledge. Just enough to give u a flavour of the traumas experienced by the child.



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