

EXPECTATIONS OF A CARER

- **Duties**
- **Competencies**
- **Tasks**
- **Conditions**
- **Self Employed status**

DUTIES

To look after two young people in the carer's home.

or

To provide regular breaks to other carers in the Specialist Carer Scheme

In between placements specialist carers may be requested to look after children on a temporary basis at the child's own home or in Council property.

COMPETENCIES

Caring for Children

- An ability to provide a good standard of care to children which promotes healthy, emotional, physical, sexual and intellectual development as well as their health and educational achievements.
- An ability to accept the individual child as he/she is by providing an environment, which values the child and their family's, values, racial, cultural, ethnic, religious and sexual identity.
- An ability to help young people and their families cope with separation and loss, and to help young people to make sense of their history and develop an understanding of themselves.
- An ability to work closely with children's families and others who are important to the child.
- An ability to set appropriate boundaries and manage children's behavior within these, without the use of physical or inappropriate punishment.
- A knowledge of normal child development and an ability to listen and communicate with children appropriate to their emotional age and understanding.
- An ability to promote a young person's development towards adult status

Provide a safe and Caring Environment

- An ability to ensure the children are cared for in a home where they are safe from harm or abuse or discrimination.
- An ability to help children keep themselves safe from harm or abuse and to know how to seek help if their safety is threatened.

Working as part of a team

- An ability to work jointly with other professional workers and to contribute to the agencies' planning for the young person.
- An ability to maintain a knowledge of current legislation.
- An ability to communicate effectively.
- An ability to keep information confidential.
- An ability to promote equality, diversity and rights of individuals and groups within society.

Own Development

- An ability to appreciate how personal experiences have affected themselves and their families and the impact that fostering is likely to have on them all.
- An ability to use people and links within the community to provide support.
- An ability to use training opportunities and improve skills.
- An ability to sustain positive relationships and maintain effective functioning throughout periods of stress.

TASKS

- An ability to participate appropriately in a range of meetings, for example, Reviews and Children's Hearings.
- An ability to contribute to the young person's Placement Agreement and Care Plan and positively support the implementation.
- An ability to record information on each child.
- An ability to write reports in appropriate format for Childcare Reviews and Children's Hearings.

CONDITIONS

- The carer must be able to provide the young person with a home environment, which is free from available hazards and is warm, adequately furnished and maintained to a good standard of hygiene.
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- The carer must have adequate accommodation so that the young person will have their own bedroom. The bedroom must be a minimum size of around 10 sq. metres.
- The carer must be able to provide an adequate nutritious diet that takes account of personal preference and cultural and/or religious background.
- The carer must agree to look after the young person for as long as the young person's needs are being met by the Specialist Carer Scheme.
- The carer must look after any young person whom the Joint Placement Panel match to their family. Carers can only refuse a replacement in exceptional circumstances if the placement would put the young person or the carer's family at risk.
- The main carer must not undertake any other employment.
- The carer must hold a current driving license and transport the young person safely. The carer must have Fully Comprehensive car insurance and inform the Council of any driving convictions.
- The carer must have household insurance.
- The carer and their partner must attend appropriate training to extend their knowledge and improve their skills.
- The carer will be expected to take a role in training and supporting other carers.
- The carer will be encouraged to assist in the recruitment of other carers.
- The carer will give the council 3 months written notice of their intention to leave the scheme.
- Following a Childcare Review, the carer will give 4 weeks written notice if they wish to end a placement.
- The Council reserves the right to withdraw the carer's approval without giving notice if concerns exist regarding the care of the young person they are looking after, or concerns exist about the carer themselves and the care they are providing. The process of terminating the agreement will be through a Carer Review presented to the Fostering Panel.

The carers as a minimum will be reviewed on an annual basis. This process will include checks on all members of the household aged 16 and over, including Police, health and local authority checks.

SELF EMPLOYED STATUS

- A fee of £20,000 per annum including a fortnightly allowance to cover the costs associated with day to day care of the young person, e.g. food and clothing allowance for a 12 year old of £4,700 per annum.
- Up to five weeks paid respite a year.
- A programme of initial training prior to approval.
- A programme of ongoing training specific to your needs.
- Carers will be paid mileage at the volunteer rate to cover the cost of transporting the child to and from school and attending all meetings in connection with the care of the young person and carers training.

Carer's Own Responsibilities

- Pension
- Income Tax
- National Insurance Contributions
- Insurance to cover periods of sickness

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

If you are interested in finding out more, then please don't hesitate to contact us by 'phone, letter or e-mail.