



*Making Social Care  
Better for People*

# inspection report

## FOSTERING SERVICE

**Pathway Care (Midlands) Ltd**

**7 The Courtyard  
Buntsford Gate  
Buntsford Drive  
Bromsgrove  
B60 3DJ**

*Lead Inspector*  
**Suzanne Young**

*Announced Inspection*  
**22nd January 2007      10:00**

The Commission for Social Care Inspection aims to:

- Put the people who use social care first
- Improve services and stamp out bad practice
- Be an expert voice on social care
- Practise what we preach in our own organisation

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This is a report of an inspection to assess whether services are meeting the needs of people who use them. The legal basis for conducting inspections is the Care Standards Act 2000 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for this establishment are those for *Fostering Services*. They can be found at [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) or obtained from The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: [www.tso.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop)

*Every Child Matters*, outlined the government's vision for children's services and formed the basis of the Children Act 2004. It provides a framework for inspection so that children's services should be judged on their contribution to the outcomes considered essential to wellbeing in childhood and later life. Those outcomes are:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a contribution; and
- Achieving economic wellbeing.

In response, the Commission for Social Care Inspection has re-ordered the national minimum standards for children's services under the five outcomes, for reporting purposes. A further section has been created under 'Management' to cover those issues that will potentially impact on all the outcomes above.

Copies of *Every Child Matters* and *The Children Act 2004* are available from The Stationery Office as above

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# SERVICE INFORMATION

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<b>Name of registered provider(s)/company (if applicable)</b>	Pathway Care Ltd
<b>Name of registered manager (if applicable)</b>	Jacqueline Patricia Edwards
<b>Type of registration</b>	Fostering Agencies

# **SERVICE INFORMATION**

## **Conditions of registration:**

**Date of last inspection**      9th January 2006

## **Brief Description of the Service:**

Pathway Care is an independent fostering agency, established in 1996 as a limited company. The company has four regional offices in Cardiff, Carmarthen, Bristol and Bromsgrove. The Cardiff office retains senior management, finance and human resources functions.

Pathway Care (Midlands) Ltd (hereafter, Pathway Care) was first registered in February 2004 and is based in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Pathway Care's statement of purpose states that it specialises in the placement of difficult to place children, sibling groups, mother and baby assessments, planned and emergency placements, assessment, short term, bridging and long term placements. It undertakes recruitment, assessment, support and training of carers.

# SUMMARY

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This summary has been written in the following style to make it easy for children and young people to read. Standards not assessed during this inspection were either met or exceeded previously.

Two inspectors visited the fostering agency between 22nd January and 24th January 2007, so that the inspectors could see how well the agency was doing.

- The inspectors visited two foster carers and children and young people placed with them. This meant the inspectors could meet the children and young people.
- An inspector met with the manager and staff from the agency.
- 12 young people returned questionnaires telling the inspector what they felt about living with foster carers.
- 16 children's social workers responsible for young people placed with foster carers returned questionnaires telling inspectors how well they felt the young people were being looked after.
- 23 foster carers returned questionnaires telling inspectors about how much support they received from the agency to help them look after the young people placed with them.
- The inspectors looked at files and records.

If you want to get a full picture of what is like to live with foster carers under Pathway Care you might like to read the full report. You can get this from the address on the front page.

## What the service does well:

These are some of the good things that the inspectors found out about Pathway Care.

- Foster carers help young people to be healthy. They make sure all children and young people can see a doctor, dentist and optician whenever they need to. Pathway Care employs a Consultant Psychotherapist who provides training and help for foster carers to help them care for the children placed with them.
- Foster carers help and support young people with their education and support young people with their schoolwork when needed. Good support is in place for foster carers and young people when not in school.
- The foster carer homes visited were welcoming, warm and comfortable.
- Pathway Care have a safe caring policy in place for all its foster carers.

Children and young people said that they felt well cared for by their foster carers.

- The agency makes sure that foster carers understand the importance of having regular contact with family and friends wherever possible.
- The agency checks and assesses foster carers to make sure they are the right sort of people to look after children and young people.
- The fostering service makes sure the children's social worker gives foster carers the information they need to look after children and young people properly. Where possible, the agency provides planned placements with introductions.
- The agency listens to children and young people and has created a children's consultation group so young people can express their views and opinions. There are a number of newsletters that are sent to carers and children, which includes contributions from staff, carers and children.

## **What has improved since the last inspection?**

- The agency has developed a health record for children and young people, which includes medical consent, for foster carers to record all medical appointments and treatment in one document, and which can then be given to young people at the end of being looked after.
- Pathway Care has developed a risk assessment to be used when looking to match children with foster carers in order to help keep children and young people safe.
- Pathway Care have developed their own Fostering Panel which approves and reviews foster carers.
- A part time social worker post has been created within the team to look at recruitment of foster carers from Black and Asian ethnic groups.
- Pathway Care have developed four local foster carer support groups, so carers can offer each other support and share information.

## **What they could do better:**

- Respite placements must have an agreement in place to make sure children and young people's needs are met.
- Evidence of matching children to foster carers, safe care plans and risk assessments should be seen for all respite placements.
- Foster carers should write down all medication they give to children and

young people.

- Risk assessments should be filled out in more detail and training given to all staff and foster carers to help keep children and young people safe.
- The agency should keep a check of when children and young people do well in school.
- There should be a person on the fostering panel who has knowledge of children's health.

Please contact the provider for advice of actions taken in response to this inspection.

The report of this inspection is available from [enquiries@csci.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@csci.gsi.gov.uk) or by contacting your local CSCI office. The summary of this inspection report can be made available in other formats on request.



# **DETAILS OF INSPECTOR FINDINGS**

## **CONTENTS**

Being Healthy

Staying Safe

Enjoying and Achieving

Making a Positive Contribution

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Management

Scoring of Outcomes

Statutory Requirements Identified During the Inspection

# Being Healthy

## The intended outcome for this Standard is:

- The fostering service promotes the health and development of children.(NMS 12)

## The Commission considers Standard 12 the key standard to be inspected.

## JUDGEMENT – we looked at the outcome for Standard:

12

Quality in this outcome area is **good**.

This judgement has been made using available evidence including a visit to this service.

Pathway Care is proactive in promoting the health and development of children and young people looked after.

## EVIDENCE:

Necessary health information is obtained at the point of placement. The agency has a matching form and foster placement agreement, which addresses the health needs of young people referred and includes medical consent. Evidence could not be seen however that this was in place for respite placements.

The carers interviewed demonstrated they were well informed with regard to the health needs of the children placed with them and were very positive about the support that was given to them by Pathway Care social workers.

Foster carers receive training on health and safety and first aid as well as training specific to the health care needs of the child and young person placed with them.

Carers visited were aware of the need to promote the health of young people placed in their care and ensured all children and young people visited were registered with a doctor and attended health appointments when required.

The health needs of children are addressed through supervision. Carers hold a separate, written health record for each child that details their health needs, medication prescribed and appointments attended. Actual medication administered is not recorded on the health record. A variety of practice around recording of medication was seen. Some carers record all medication administered in their daily recording and others record only homely medication administered or not at all. The foster carers handbook states that carers should record all medication given, prescribed or otherwise including anything given or taken by mistake.

There was appropriate storage of medication in the carer's home. Carers confirmed that Social Workers checked that medicines are kept in a secure place in the house eg lockable storage .

Medical consent is included in the foster placement agreement and a copy is attached to the child's health record. At the last inspection carers demonstrated confusion about the extent of the consent they can give to medical treatment. This has since been revisited through training and supervision.

Pathway Care Midlands employs a Consultant Psychotherapist who provides training and therapeutic services for foster carers to help them care for the children placed with them.

# Staying Safe

## The intended outcomes for these Standards are:

- Any persons carrying on or managing the service are suitable. (NMS 3)
- The fostering service provides suitable foster carers.(NMS 6)
- The service matches children to carers appropriately.(NMS 8)
- The fostering service protects each child or young person from abuse and neglect.(NMS 9)
- The people who work in or for the fostering service are suitable to work with children and young people.(NMS 15)
- Fostering panels are organised efficiently and effectively.(NMS 30)

**The Commission considers Standards 3, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 30 the key standards to be inspected.**

## **JUDGEMENT – we looked at outcomes for the following Standard(s):**

3,6,8,9,15 and 30

Quality in this outcome area is **good**.

This judgement has been made using available evidence including a visit to this service.

Pathway Care actively safeguards the welfare of children and is managed and staffed by suitable persons and provides carers who are suitable to work with children and young people. The agency needs to demonstrate that appropriate matching, foster placement agreements, risk assessments and safe caring guidelines are in place for respite placements.

## **EVIDENCE:**

The manager and staff team are appropriately qualified and able to demonstrate they have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their duties

The foster homes visited during the inspection were comfortable, child focussed and maintained to a good level of cleanliness and hygiene. Health and

safety checks of foster homes and unannounced visits are carried out on an annual basis by supervising social workers. Car and insurance documents are checked annually by the Social Worker.

Pathway Care has developed a matching pro-forma, which includes a risk assessment of the child's needs. This needs to be further developed to explicitly demonstrate how carers skills match children's needs and to evidence how gaps in matching are met. Some good evidence of matching was seen and carers stated that appropriate matches were generally made. Evidence could not be seen of matching for respite placements made within the agency. The agency needs to demonstrate the appropriateness of all placements made including respite placements.

Where possible, the agency provides planned placements with introductions. Evidence was seen of the efforts the agency makes to ensure that full information is acquired from children's social workers.

A foster placement agreement (FPA) has been developed, which meets all requirements of Schedule 6. Although Pathway Care provide respite carers with all information required when taking a child or young person for a short period of time, FPA's were not completed and in place for respite placements. FPA's need to be completed in respect of every child and young person placed at the point of placement, including all respite placements made.

Pathway Care has developed a risk assessment model to be used at matching and in response to specific risk arising during a placement. The effectiveness of this risk assessment is dependent on it being completed fully and in detail by all those involved and should be completed for all placements including respite placements where required. Consideration should be given to further develop the training provided to social workers and foster carers in the completion of risk assessments.

Policies, procedures and staff guidance are in place with regard to child protection and safe caring. Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children.

The Foster Carers handbook is currently under review and is being updated

Pathway Care have developed a safe caring policy in place for all its foster carers which is specific to each foster family and includes all family members and networks. This is reviewed on each placement and individualised for each placement with the approval of the child's social worker. The agency needs to demonstrate that these documents are regularly reviewed and up dated to cover all aspects of a child's needs. A safe caring policy specific to the child needs also to be in place for all respite placements; even in an emergency this needs to be in place out as soon as possible.

Checks of personnel files demonstrated that the agency's staff recruitment practices are comprehensive and thorough which ensure staff and carers are safe and suitable to work with children. Criminal Bureau checks (CRB's) are carried out on all staff and foster carers including all adult members of the foster carer's home.

Pathway Care (Midlands) Ltd shares a joint Fostering Panel with Pathway Care (Bristol) Ltd. An independently chaired panel is held monthly in the Birmingham office. The panel meeting held in December 2005 was observed as part of the inspection of Pathway Care (Bristol) Ltd. Observation of Panel discussions included the consideration of approvals, amendments to registrations, and a number of 'first reviews'. Panel minutes were read and the panel manager interviewed as part of this inspection.

Membership was found to be broadly in line with the requirements of Regulation 24 of the Fostering Service Regulations. Clear procedures are being followed to ensure the Panel also meets the requirements of regulation 26. File records for each member of the panel were inspected and comply with National Minimum Standard 30.3.

Assessment expertise and the all important quality assurance function of the joint panel were found to be commendable. The panel checked that all the required references and checks had been completed for prospective carers and asked pertinent questions of assessing social workers and prospective carers. During all of the discussions members of the Panel demonstrated that they had considerable knowledge of the entire fostering process. It was noted that the panel was particularly thorough in their approach to approval of foster carers. The chair of the panel was able to demonstrate a sound understanding of the cases discussed. All members of the panel confirmed understanding of the fostering task and the needs of children looked after.

Although the Panel has access to medical expertise prior to Foster Carer's applications being considered for approval it is recommended that the Panel meetings always have a member in attendance who has medical expertise. Pathway Care is in the process of recruiting for an independent healthcare representative for Panel.

The panel chair produces an annual report, which evaluates the functions of the panel and the quality of work presented to it by the agency. The quality assurance team manages the panel.

From January 2007 a new Panel Manager Principal Officer/Quality Assurance has been appointed and a recently appointed training Officer will also be joining as a panel member.



# Enjoying and Achieving

## The intended outcomes for these Standards are:

- The fostering service values diversity.(NMS 7)
- The fostering service promotes educational achievement.(NMS 13)
- When foster care is provided as a short-term break for a child, the arrangements recognise that the parents remain the main carers for the child.(NMS 31)

**The Commission considers Standards 7, 13 and 31 the key standards to be inspected.**

## **JUDGEMENT – we looked at outcomes for the following standard(s):**

7 and 13

Quality in this outcome area is **good**.

This judgement has been made using available evidence including a visit to this service.

Pathway Care demonstrates a positive attitude to diversity. Educational achievement is valued and supported by the fostering agency.

## **EVIDENCE:**

From discussions with staff it is apparent that the issue of diversity is considered during the referral and matching process, and during placement. Social workers were able to describe ways in which they have been able to support foster carers to promote equality and explore issues relating to ethnicity etc with the children and young people they look after.

Training is provided to staff and carers on Valuing Diversity and there are plans to further develop this training to encompass a wider focus.

A part time post has been created within the team to look at recruitment of foster carers from Black and Asian ethnic groups and the agency plans to attend the Asian Life Style event at the NEC in Birmingham.



Carers are provided with specific training to help them meet the needs of children with disability and learning needs.

A diverse range of activities was available to young people and was seen to be promoted by staff and foster carers.

Foster carers visited developed and maintained effective working relationships with schools to ensure children and young people educational needs could be met. There was also considerable evidence of carers advocating for children at schools; their work supported through supervision. One carer stated 'we have had huge battles regarding specialist education for our child. We have been supported throughout by Pathway Care social workers who have help access other services'

Staff were able to demonstrate how they support carers and young people who are not in full time education by obtaining homework from schools and by providing structured occupation such as taking young people out on educational visits. Pathway Care employ an outreach worker to visit foster carer homes to support carers and take children out when they are not in full time education. Pathway Care charge placing authorities an additional fee if the child is excluded from school on a permanent basis. Sixteen out of the twenty-three questionnaires returned from foster carers said they felt the agency was excellent or good at supporting them in helping the children they care for in achieving educationally.

Children's achievements are acknowledged in the agency newsletter. It is recommended that the agency monitors the educational achievement of children and young people on a regular basis

Evidence was seen on files and from discussions with foster carers of childrens and young people's personal education plans(PEP's) being completed. Where these were not on file evidence was seen of this having been requested.

# Making a Positive Contribution

## The intended outcomes for these Standards are:

- The fostering service promotes contact arrangements for the child or young person. (NMS 10)
- The fostering service promotes consultation.(NMS 11)

## The Commission considers Standards 10 and 11 the key standards to be inspected.

## JUDGEMENT – we looked at outcomes for the following standard(s):

10 and 11

Quality in this outcome area is **good**.

This judgement has been made using available evidence including a visit to this service.

Contact is seen as a priority by carers and staff. The fostering service has developed very good consultative practices and have a high regard on listening to the views of children.

## EVIDENCE:

The requirements for contact are considered when matching and is clarified at the start of placement. Clear plans could be seen on FPAs, which state contact arrangements and involve all those who need to be involved. Outcomes of contact are recorded in daily diaries, and in monthly reports, where necessary.

From discussions with carers and staff and from recordings in case files, evidence was seen that foster carers and the agency, ensure appropriate contact between children and their families is maintained and encouraged. Foster carers stated that they felt well supported by the agency. Records indicate that contact is facilitated and promoted by carers

Training is provided for staff and carers. New carers have extra supervision and support as they begin placements and undertake contact support for the first time.

Due to requests from carers Pathway Care have introduced four local carer support groups, which provide carers with the opportunities to offer each other support and shared information. There is also a Carer's Consultation Group, which is made up of representatives who give advice and feedback on policies and procedures being developed by Pathway Care.

There is a Children's Consultation Group, which has become involved in developing the Children's Guide. Feedback from this group is published in a Newsletter. A key ring with "think smart" bullying cards available to children from five years onwards has been developed through consultation with children and young people.

There are a number of newsletters that are sent to carers and children, which includes contributions from staff, carers and children. There is the Pathway Care (Midlands) Newsletter, a Carer's Newsletter and a Children's Newsletter. Pathway Care also has a website, which can be accessed to catch up on corporate news and information.

Social events are organised throughout the year and Pathway Care Midlands runs a support group for foster carer's own children.

The Children's Guide contains a child friendly version of Pathway Care's complaint procedure and refers the reader to Pathway Care's complaints leaflet for further information. This leaflet is sent out with all Children's Guides. In questionnaires ten out of the twelve returned from children and young people said they knew how to make a complaint.

The quality assurance team are available to investigate complaints. The quality assurance team are able to maintain an impartial stance and investigate complaints across regions. It also enables them to monitor patterns of complaints.

## **Achieving Economic Wellbeing**

**The intended outcomes for these Standards are:**

- The fostering service prepares young people for adulthood.(NMS 14)
- The fostering service pays carers an allowance and agreed expenses as specified.(NMS 29)

**JUDGEMENT – we looked at outcomes for the following standard(s):**

This outcome area was not assessed at this inspection.

**EVIDENCE:**

# Management

## **The intended outcomes for these Standards are:**

- There is a clear statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service and the fostering service ensures that they meet those aims and objectives.(NMS 1)
- The fostering service is managed by those with the appropriate skills and experience. (NMS 2)
- The fostering service is monitored and controlled as specified. (NMS 4)
- The fostering service is managed effectively and efficiently.(NMS 5)
- Staff are organised and managed effectively.(NMS 16)
- The fostering service has an adequate number of sufficiently experienced and qualified staff.(NMS 17)
- The fostering service is a fair and competent employer.(NMS 18)
- There is a good quality training programme. (NMS 19)
- All staff are properly accountable and supported.(NMS 20)
- The fostering service has a clear strategy for working with and supporting carers.(NMS 21)
- Foster carers are provided with supervision and support.(NMS 22)
- Foster carers are appropriately trained.(NMS 23)
- Case records for children are comprehensive.(NMS 24)
- The administrative records are maintained as required.(NMS 25)
- The premises used as offices by the fostering service are suitable for the purpose.(NMS 26)
- The fostering service is financially viable. (NMS 27)
- The fostering service has robust financial processes. (NMS 28)
- Local Authority fostering services recognise the contribution made by family and friends as carers.(NMS 32)

**The Commission considers Standards 1, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25 and 32 the key standards to be inspected.**

**JUDGEMENT – we looked at outcomes for the following standard(s):**

1,5,16,17,21,24,and 25

Quality in this outcome area is **good**.

This judgement has been made using available evidence including a visit to this service.

A management structure exists which has clear lines of accountability. Staff are organised and managed effectively. Foster carers are well supervised and receive a high level of support.

### **EVIDENCE:**

The agency's Statement of Purpose meets all the requirements of the Fostering Services National Minimum Standards. It was up dated December 2006 and a copy was sent to all carers, along with a copy of the new Children's Guide. Both documents clearly outline the purposes and motivation of the organisation. The Children's Guide has been developed with members of the Children's Consultation Group. Some of the changes to the Children's Guide are the inclusion of photographs of the staff team and a page of faces expressing different feelings.

Pathway Care has four office bases –Cardiff, Carmarthen, Bristol and Bromsgrove. Based at the Bromsgrove office there is a Regional Director, a Principal Officer, six Supervising Social Workers, two Family Outreach Workers, a Team Administrator and Panel Administrator. The Regional Director is registered as manager for this service and holds appropriate qualifications for the post and role.

There is a clear system in place for managing the project in the absence of the Regional Director.

The Principal Officer holds responsibility for the day-to-day supervision of the Social Work Team.

The quality assurance team are undertaking a full review of the foster care reviewing system. They take a lead responsibility for the monitoring of Schedule 8 reporting and notifications from the first point of notice through to outcome and close, undertake and complete complaint investigations, review the variations and exemptions process, implement a rolling programme of policy and procedure review, manage the fostering panel, and research and develop information systems in child care and fostering.

The standard of assessment continues to be of a good quality. Carers interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the assessment process was carried out.

All carers attend a three-day preparation course prior to their approval. This course introduces them to the skills they will require to foster and ensures that at least one member of each household has a first aid qualification. Once approved Pathway Care provides intermediate and higher training, which comprises of a mixture of mandatory training and specialist training. An annual analysis of training needs is undertaken for all carers and informs the training programme for the following year.

The training programme is sent out to all carers in a newsletter and was seen to reflect the identified needs of the team and of individual staff and carers. Staff are supervised and appraised regularly and expressed positive attitudes to these processes.

The quality assurance team manages the reviews of foster carers. All annual reviews are undertaken by the quality assurance team. This system provides opportunity for consultations with carers, their families and children. The competency-based reviews are of a very high standard. The fostering panel has oversight of all reviews.

All carers have a nominated supervising Social Worker and are supervised on a regular basis. There is a supervision proforma used for all formal supervision sessions. The supervising Social Worker attends all meetings and reviews with the carers. Carers confirmed that they are supervised on a regular basis and expressed satisfaction about the supervision provided by their supervising social workers. They particularly described excellent support during the summer holidays from supervising social workers organising activities and taking the children out to give carers a break.

One carer stated 'this is our first placement and we have been very well supervised in our role. Our supervising Social Worker has been excellent and supportive in every way'.

Information received from placing social workers revealed a very positive working relationship with Pathway Care. The agency was described as efficient and effective with children being central to their dealings.

The agency ensures that an up-to-date, comprehensive case record is maintained for each child or young person in foster care. There were separate files for carers and young people and case files were well maintained. Carers are expected to record daily diary sheets, monthly reports and incident report. Health matters are recorded on a separate health record.

All case records regarding children and young people, including copies of the daily recordings written by carers, are now given to the child's social worker at the conclusion of the placement.

A record needs to be maintained on each foster carers file of each placement made which states the name, age, sex of each child placed, the dates on which each placement began and terminated and the circumstances of the termination, in line with Regulation 30(3) (a).



# SCORING OF OUTCOMES

This page summarises the assessment of the extent to which the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services have been met and uses the following scale.

**4** Standard Exceeded (Commendable)      **3** Standard Met (No Shortfalls)  
**2** Standard Almost Met (Minor Shortfalls)      **1** Standard Not Met (Major Shortfalls)

"X" in the standard met box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion

"N/A" in the standard met box denotes standard not applicable

BEING HEALTHY	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>12</b>	3

STAYING SAFE	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>3</b>	3
<b>6</b>	3
<b>8</b>	2
<b>9</b>	3
<b>15</b>	3
<b>30</b>	3

ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>7</b>	3
<b>13</b>	3
<b>31</b>	N/A

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>10</b>	3
<b>11</b>	4

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>14</b>	X
<b>29</b>	X

MANAGEMENT	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>1</b>	3
<b>2</b>	X
<b>4</b>	X
<b>5</b>	3
<b>16</b>	3
<b>17</b>	3
<b>18</b>	X
<b>19</b>	X
<b>20</b>	X
<b>21</b>	3
<b>22</b>	X
<b>23</b>	X
<b>24</b>	3
<b>25</b>	3
<b>26</b>	X
<b>27</b>	X
<b>28</b>	X
<b>32</b>	N/A

Yes

Are there any outstanding requirements from the last inspection?

## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Fostering Services Regulations 2002 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

No.	Standard	Regulation	Requirement	Timescale for action
1.	FS8	34	All respite placements must have a foster placement agreement in place prior to or at the point of placement in accordance with Regulations 34 and 38	31/03/07
3.	FS24	30(3)(a)	The records of placements with carers must be kept in accordance with Regulation 30(3)(a). (Timescale of 30/4/06 not met).	31/03/07

## RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations relate to National Minimum Standards and are seen as good practice for the Registered Provider/s to consider carrying out.

No.	Refer to Standard	Good Practice Recommendations
1.	FS8	Evidence of matching, safe care plans and risk assessments should be seen in respect of all respite placements.
2.	FS8	Evidence should be seen of safe care plans being regularly reviewed and updated.
3.	FS8	Risk assessments should be completed in greater detail and training provided to all staff and carers.

4.	FS12	Foster carers should ensure all medication administered to children and young people are recorded, in line with agency's policy.
5.	FS13	It is recommended that the agency monitor the educational achievements of children and young people on a regular basis.
6.	FS30	There should be an independent member of the fostering panel who has expertise in child health.

## **Commission for Social Care Inspection**

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