



Learning Hub

Foster Carer Training

Caring for children can be a demanding role. The opportunity to receive regular, high-quality training is very important in supporting carers to undertake the tasks required in caring for children, some of whom may be exhibiting difficult and challenging behaviour.

Workforce Development have a strong commitment to providing several training opportunities each year which build on the skills first discussed during the Journey to Foster preparation course.

This directory has been specifically developed for Foster Carers who are in a unique position in terms of the care which they give to vulnerable children and young people and supports the need to recognise carers as professionals.

It has been designed to reflect the core competencies that have been set out in the National Foster Care Standards and to support the completion of the Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Carers.

Please ensure that your Mandatory and Core training is up to date. We advise that your Mandatory and Core training are prioritised over additional training.

Workforce Development are committed to making as much training as possible, accessible to carers to match their needs and commitments and where possible, we have created an e-learning option, including some of your Mandatory training, available via our Learning Hub. Please note however, due to the nature of some of our training, some of these will need to be classroom only.



Learning Hub

The following icons will show you how you can complete your training.



This icon means that you can complete your training via E-Learning



This icon means that you can complete your training via classroom. This will likely be in person and face-to-face, however, some training may be online.

All newly approved Foster Carers must also complete their TSD standards portfolio within the first 12 months. (18 months for connected carers and short break carers.)

Please note training records are shared with your Supervising Social Worker and Fostering Team Managers for your fostering annual reviews and in Standards of Care issues.

Please note that Workforce Development reserve the right to make amendments to the training programme, so some dates or times may be re-arranged or cancelled depending on attendance numbers and staff availability.

We will continue to review our training programme and we may add to this as need and demand requires. We will update our training page on the website and keep you up to date with any changes we make via email.

Please find our training page at: [Foster carer training - Gateshead Council](#)



Training Agreement

All training is bookable via our Learning Hub. You will be given a username and password to access our Learning Hub. If you need any support with The Hub, please contact LearningHub@gateshead.gov.uk who will be able to help you.

We expect all participants to treat each other and trainers with dignity and respect. We encourage participants to share experiences and therefore ask that any information you hear during training is treated as confidential following the guidelines in your fostering handbook.

We ask participants to arrive promptly and stay for the duration of the course. We are aware however, that there are circumstances beyond your control where you may need to leave early or arrive late. Wherever possible, please let wdsupport@gateshead.gov.uk or kirstymusgrave@gateshead.gov.uk know in advance. Where you have not been able to stay for the course in its entirety, the trainer holds the right to record the training as incomplete if it is felt too much of the content is missed. In the case of a first aid qualification, you will not receive the qualification as the learning hours are dictated by the awarding body.

For any training you are completing via a virtual classroom (I.E. via Microsoft Teams) we ask that you participate and engage fully and away from any distractions. This includes ensuring that your camera is on, and you are visible to the trainer. We ask that you are respectful to the trainer and other participants and keep mics muted whilst others are talking. If you are asked to use tools as part of your participation, such as 'hands up if you would like to speak' then we encourage you to follow the instructions of your trainer.

We ask participants attend training they have booked or cancel prior. You can cancel any training you have booked via our Learning Hub.

We accept that some cancellations may be very last minute due to the nature of your work or due to illness. In these circumstances please email kirstymusgrave@gateshead.gov.uk to let us know you will not be arriving. This will allow trainers to start on time and not wait for people who will not be coming. Those who fail to attend without prior cancellation will be identified and passed to their supervising social worker for investigation. In some cases, you may be subject to a penalty charge.



Learning Hub

During your training, we ask you to respect others' points of views. Any discriminatory or oppressive remarks about either the trainer or other participants will not be tolerated. We ask that training is not used as an opportunity to complain about a specific person, social worker, manager or department if not relevant to the course.

Please can you ensure that mobile phones are on silent while in training. As you are very important people and may still need to receive calls, we ask that you leave the room to do so.

We ask all participants to complete the evaluation forms with honest and factual feedback. This feedback is used to plan for the following years training programme and ensures that we are offering relevant and effective training.

Participants will be given reflective accounts to reflect on your learning and how it has impacted the care you give. These are your own accounts and can be used to complete your annual review paperwork.

Finally, we ask that you join in and participate as much as possible. Training is more enjoyable the more we interact together and join in all activities. And most importantly ENJOY IT! 😊



Learning Hub

Foster Carer Induction Session

Aim:

To look at the training requirements for new Foster Carers and completion of TSD standards

Learning objectives:

- To look at Foster Carer training requirements for Primary and Secondary Carers
- To explore completion of the TSD portfolio and evidence which can be used to support your understanding
- To understand the importance of your support network and the support and benefits for you as a Foster Carer

Who is this for?

This training is for NEW carers who have recently been approved at panel

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based

Dates and Venue:

- 19th April 2023, 10:00-12:00, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 19th June 2023, 10:00-12:00, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Safer Caring- A Comprehensive Look

Aim:

To reinforce and develop the concept and culture of safer caring with foster carers, and to assist carers to adopt safe caring practices when dealing with children and young people.

Learning objectives:

- Define the terms Risk and Harm in the context of Safer Caring
- Explore why looked after children are more vulnerable
- Discuss the importance of a secure base
- Discuss how we can be risk sensible, not risk averse
- Discuss safer caring in where every-day life can increase risk
- Review and develop your own safe caring principles and practice with regard to keeping everyone in the family safe

Who is this for?

This training is for carers needing to complete Safer Caring- If you need to complete both your refresher training for Safer Caring and Recording and Disclosure Skills, please see Mandatory Refresh training for more information.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.



E-Learning versions of this training are available for you to complete on Learning Hub.

Dates and Venue:

- 9th May 2023, 9:30-14:00, G2, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 12th July 2023, 9:30-14:00, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Recording and Disclosure Skills- A Comprehensive Look

Aim:

To look at the principles of recording and disclosure skills and the role Foster Carers play in this. We will look at the national and local guidance, including Gateshead's approach to Narrative Practice.

Learning objectives:

- Describe the Foster Carers role in record keeping and explain why it is important to keep records
- Identify notifiable events
- Distinguish between "Fact" and "Opinion"
- Provide an opportunity to practice recording skills and reflect on own practice
- Discuss what to do with documentation once a child or young person has moved on
- Identify the legal implications and the Foster Carers role when a young person makes a disclosure

Who is this for?

This training is for carers needing to complete Recording and Disclosure Skills- If you need to complete both your refresher training for Safer Caring and Recording and Disclosure Skills, please see Mandatory Refresh training for more information.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.



E-Learning versions of this training are available for you to complete on Learning Hub.

Dates and Venue:

- 23rd May 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 17th July 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Mandatory Refresh- Safer Caring and Recording and Disclosure Skills Refresher

Aim:

To reinforce and develop the concept and culture of safer caring with foster carers, and to assist carers when adopting safe caring practices This course also looks at the key points to remember when it comes to recording and disclosure skills, including Narrative Practice.

Learning objectives:

The learning objectives set out in the stand alone Safer Caring training and the stand alone Recording and Disclosure training will be looked at as part of this training.

Who is this for?

This training is for carers who have completed Safer Caring and Recording and Disclosure skills before and are due their refresher training. This combines both areas of the mandatory training requirements in one training session.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.



E-Learning versions of this training are available for you to complete on Learning Hub.

Dates and Venue:

- 16th May 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 22nd June 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Connections before Corrections

Aim:

To provide carers with positive ways in which they can build connections with children and young people in their care, understand the different types of abuse and the behaviours we may see from these experiences and how you as a carer can best support the needs of the children in your care.

Learning objectives:

- To have an awareness of brain development and attachment in children.
- To understand the importance of building connections, what we mean by providing a secure base and how you can do this.
- To look at how we can be an active listener to encourage positive connections.
- To identify the categories of abuse and neglect and associated behaviours.
- To look at PACE and how you can support the needs of children and young people within your care.

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers. This is part of the Therapeutic Approach package of training carers are required to complete.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 10th May 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 18th July 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Your Self Care

Aim:

To think about reasons why people may react in different situations and how to look after yourself to enable you to support children and young people in your care.

Learning objectives:

- Spot the signs of anger and frustration and be able to describe what happens to the body when someone feels this way
- Discuss the impact of shame on behaviour
- Understand the signs of Compassion Fatigue, Secondary Trauma and Carer Burnout
- Analyse how others behaviour pushes children/young people and you to crisis
- Assess your own levels of self-esteem and support young people to build their self-esteem.

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers. This is part of the Therapeutic Approach package of training carers are required to complete.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 25th May 2023, 9:30-14:00, G2, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 13th July 2023, 9:30-14:00, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



VR Headset Trauma Training *BRAND NEW*

Aim:

To look at the affects trauma can have on brain development of children and young people. Using Virtual Reality Headsets to follow the journey of a young person from birth to school years, you will be able to see how trauma has had an impact on the decisions they make in later life.

Learning objectives:

- To look at the impact trauma can have on children and young people
- To look at and discuss using our Therapeutic Approach when supporting children and young people who have experienced trauma

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor

Michelle Sterricker, Consultant Social Worker



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 18th May 2023, 9:30-11:30, Lamsley Room, Civic Centre
- 18th May 2023, 12:00-14:00, Lamsley Room, Civic Centre
- 19th May 2023, 9:30-11:30, Bridges Room, Civic Centre



The Impact of Neglect

Aim:

Gain an understanding of what childhood neglect is, and the effects of neglect on children and young people.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the context, legal framework and policies relating to neglect
- Explore what neglect is and why parents are neglectful
- Examine the effects of neglect
- Explore their thoughts and feelings around neglect

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 7th June 2023, 9:30-14:00, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Learning and Attachment

Aim:

To look at attachment difficulties and the impact this can have on their learning.

Learning objectives:

- Understand what is meant by attachment and attachment difficulties.
- Have explored the impact that attachment difficulties have on young people in school and the adults working with them.
- Have considered how we can support these young people with their school experience and learning.

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers.

Facilitator

Joanne Hoyle, Gateshead Psychological Services and Virtual School Team



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 15th June 2023, 9:30-12:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Transitions to Adulthood

Aim:

This session aims to give carers an understanding of the processes, roles and responsibilities in the transitions process and to identify the main stages of transitions

Learning objectives:

- Define the term “transition”
- Define the principles of good transitions
- Explore the concept of transitions
- Define the processes involved in transitions
- Identify appropriate resources to support the young people in care

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers.

Facilitators

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor

Chris Hulme, Children’s Rights Officer

Representatives from other teams involved in the transitions process



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 21st June 2023, 9:30-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Equality and Diversity for Foster Carers

Aim:

To introduce the principles of equality and diversity to foster carers.

Learning objectives:

- Recognise and define the terms 'Equality' and 'Diversity'
- Correctly identify related legislation
- Discuss the need to promote 'Identity' and 'Differentiation'
- Discuss stereotyping and recognise the difference between prejudice and discrimination
- Review how discrimination can affect children and young people
- Discuss ways in which you can support and encourage children and young people to develop skills to deal with discrimination

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers.

Facilitator

Kirsty Musgrave, Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 23rd June 2023, 9:30-12:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Foster Carers

Aim:

To understand the use of drugs & Alcohol and how to best manage their effects on young people

Learning objectives:

- Gain an understanding of why young people use drugs/alcohol
- Be able to identify certain drugs and their effects
- Recognise potential signs or symptoms of young people using substances and be able to sign post them to access support where appropriate
- What to do in an overdose situation

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers. This is part of the Therapeutic Approach package carers are required to complete.

Facilitator

Jordan Lynch, Positive Futures Young People's Service



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 11th July 2023, 10:00-12:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



L3 Emergency First Aid (2 day course)

Aim:

To cover aspects of the L3 EFAW qualification

Learning objectives:

- Understand the role and responsibilities of a first aider
- Be able to assess an incident
- Be able to manage an unresponsive casualty who is breathing normally
- Be able to manage an unresponsive casualty who is not breathing normally
- Know how to recognise and assist a casualty who is choking
- Be able to manage a casualty with external bleeding
- Be able to manage a casualty who is in shock
- Be able to manage a casualty with a minor injury

Assessment

There are both practical and written assessments.

Practical assessments include; primary survey, recovery position, CPR & Defib, Choking, Shock & treating External Bleeding.

Written assessment is in the form of a multi-choice exam. **BOTH DAYS ARE TO BE ATTENDED**

Facilitator

Workforce Development Advisor- Please note that as there is a pool of trainers, some dates may be booked at the same time as other training*

Who is this for?

This training is for all primary carers needing to complete the L3 Emergency First Aid qualification.



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 9th and 10th May 2023, 9:30-13:30, LG5 and LG7, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 8th and 9th June 2023, 9:30-13:30, LG5 and LG7, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre
- 6th and 7th July 2023, 9:30-13:30, LG5 and LG7, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre

***Please note that we also deliver this training over 1 day, however this runs 9:00-17:00. If you can make our 1-day training, these dates are also bookable via the hub. You will need to attend the full day to gain the qualification.**



Learning Hub

Let's talk about growing up

Aim:

To support fosters carers to facilitate age-appropriate discussions around growing up, body changes, relationships, and sexual health.

Learning objectives:

- Review the physical and emotional changes during puberty
- Improve confidence in discussing growing up, sex and relationships
- Be able to answer childrens and people's questions confidently
- Provide an overview of sex and relationship education core curriculum from foundation to key stage 4.

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers

Facilitator

Clare Cavanagh, Senior Workforce Development Advisor



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 24th May 2023, 9:30-12:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



Learning Hub

Adolescent Brain- Liza Lomax *BRAND NEW*

Aim:

To look at what our adolescent children need and how we can support young people within our care

Learning objectives:

1. The neurology of adolescence: what the adolescent brain is doing – and what it needs
2. The biology of adolescence: what the teenage body is doing – and what it needs
3. How early developmental experiences are replayed in adolescence
4. The centrality of relationships and identity development in adolescence, particularly for children with insecure attachments
5. How to engage the adolescent brain – and support a teenager through turbulent times

Who is this for?

This training is for all carers

Facilitator

Liza Lomax



This training is classroom based.

Dates and Venue:

- 6th June 2023, 9:30-14:30, Council Chambers, Civic Centre



Support Groups

What are Support Groups?

Support groups are a chance for carers to get together to discuss a particular topic or area within fostering. Each Support Group has a theme in which carers can share best practise with others.

Who is this for?

These are available for all carers

Upcoming Themes, Facilitators, Date and Venue



- Could you care for an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child? - Laura Drew, SSW and Michelle Walker, Experienced UASC Foster Carer
26th April 2023- 10:00-12:00, LG4 Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



- Child Safety Week- Various Facilitators
5th June 2023- 13:00-14:30, G1, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



- Trauma Informed Discussions- Laura Drew and Gemma Reilly
13th June 2023- 10:00-11:30, LG4, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



- Adoption Discussions- Laura Drew and Mhairi Patterson
20th June 2023- 10:00-11:30, LG4, Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre



- Corporate Parenting- Chris Hulme, Children's Rights Officer
5th July 2023, 10:00-11:00, Microsoft Teams (Please note this date will not show in your support groups, but you can search for this on the Learning Hub to book your place)



Coffee Mornings/ Afternoons

What are Coffee Mornings/ Afternoons?

Coffee Mornings/ Afternoons are a chance for carers to get together and catch up with each other. SSW will also be around to support if you have any questions.

Who is this for?

These are available for all carers



Dates and Venues



- 3rd May 2023- 9:30-11:00, Bewicks B, Civic Centre
- 6th July 2023- 13:30-15:00, Bewicks B, Civic Centre

Further Coffee Morning/ Afternoon dates are available to book on the hub from September-December 2023