

The
**Fostering
Network**

Foster Carers' Charter

implementation
toolkit for Wales





About The Fostering Network

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity. We are the essential network for fostering, bringing together everyone who is involved in the lives of fostered children.

We support foster carers to transform children's lives and we work with fostering services and the wider sector to develop and share best practice.

We work to ensure all fostered children and young people experience stable family life and we are passionate about the difference foster care makes. We champion fostering and seek to create vital change so that foster care is the very best it can be.

thefosteringnetwork.org.uk

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Foreword

Foster carers throughout Wales provide stable and secure homes for thousands of children in care, each and every year, often giving these children their first real experience of positive family life. Fostering makes a transformational difference to the lives of children by offering them the stable and secure home that they need to thrive.

As a foster carer myself, I know the joys that fostering can bring; but I'm also very aware of the many challenges that foster carers face. Part of The Fostering Network's remit is to work with foster carers and fostering services to minimise these challenges, and to make foster care the very best it can be for fostered children and the families that care for them. Our Foster Carers' Charter can play a significant part in helping to achieve this. The charter makes clear the responsibilities of, and expectations on, both fostering services and foster carers, as they work together to care for fostered children.

We are calling for the Foster Carers' Charter to be in place in every fostering service across Wales. We believe that it will help foster carers feel valued and supported by their fostering services, and can be an important first step towards foster carers being treated and respected as the professionals that they are.

We hope this toolkit will help you to put a charter into place in your fostering service so that foster carers get the recognition they deserve and need, to provide children with the best possible care.



Colin Turner

Director

The Fostering Network in Wales

Introduction

Foster carers provide a safe, loving environment for vulnerable children. With foster carers' love and support, the children in their care quickly adapt and often thrive. Put simply, foster carers help to make a real difference to children's lives.

Foster carers are crucial to supporting looked after children in Wales. According to the latest figures (31 March 2017), there are around 4,400 children living with foster families in Wales. This is nearly three-quarters of all looked after children.

There are approximately 3,700 foster families in Wales and The Fostering Network estimates that fostering services need to recruit a further 440 foster families in 2017-18.

The Fostering Network has long campaigned that foster carers should be regarded as full members of the team working with looked after children. The Fostering Network's [Foster Carers' Charter](#), which was officially launched in 2015 by the Welsh Government's minister for health and social services, Mark Drakeford AM, is helping to ensure that this becomes a reality.

The Foster Carers' Charter supports local authorities' responsibilities as corporate parents and sets out a framework of rights and expectations for foster carers. It sets out mutual roles and responsibilities, which are 'owned' by both foster carers and the fostering service. It covers issues such as supervision, involvement in planning and decision making, information and payments.

All over the UK, fostering services and foster carers are agreeing this charter so that foster carers get the recognition and support they deserve and need to, provide children with the best possible care.

To ensure that the Foster Carers' Charter is embedded into everyday practice, The Fostering Network is helping fostering services around Wales to develop and implement their own local charters. This is why, in July 2017, we launched **[Foster Carers' Charter Wales Implementation Framework](#)**. This takes the charter to the next level – it translates the ideals into concrete actions that can be taken by a wide range of partners to bring about real and measurable improvements in foster care across the country.

This toolkit supports the implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter.

To download the toolkit visit:

<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/sites/www.fostering.net/files/content/fostercarerscharterimplementationframeworkenglish.pdf>



The Foster Carers' Charter was launched at the Senedd in May 2015 by (left to right) Mark Drakeford AM, then minister for health and social services, Kevin Williams, chief executive of The Fostering Network, and foster carer ambassador Will Howells

What does this toolkit offer and who is it for?

This toolkit supports everyone involved in fostering services to successfully and effectively implement the Foster Carers' Charter in Wales, both as individuals and in partnership with others.

It focuses specifically on the roles of councillors, foster carers and local government officers.

However, this is not an exhaustive list of all the stakeholders who might be involved. Local government officers in social services, for example, should be considered in their widest context. We also recognise the role of the third sector and the statutory duty placed on local authorities in the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, to pay regard to its role.

The toolkit provides an opportunity for everyone involved in implementing the Foster Carers' Charter to consider each other's roles as well as their own in more detail, to learn about each other's responsibilities and to 'challenge' one another with a critical friend approach.

This joint ownership approach will help to ensure the Foster Carers' Charter moves forward effectively.

The Foster Carers' Charter is relevant to a wide range of people involved in fostering.



How to use this toolkit

This toolkit can be used in a variety of settings, including:

- existing council and strategic partnership meetings.
- corporate parenting groups.
- training events.
- informal groups and meetings.
- working groups.

This toolkit provides materials to support corporate parents in assessing how well their own council is doing, using both quantitative and qualitative sources of information.

The toolkit is divided into sections for councillors, local government officers and foster carers. Within each section there is the opportunity to self-assess against each of the key areas of the Implementation Framework, as follows:

Part One: Turning the charter into reality

Part Two: Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers' Charter

Part Three: Partners and working together

Part Four: National support

Each part poses questions for participants. By providing a response to the questions, you can identify areas of good practice and areas that can be improved upon, to support the effective implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter.

Once you have completed the questions, there is a personal action plan to fill in which will help you to identify and achieve your goals.

By referring back to the Implementation Framework, you can take the learning from the self-assessment and consider what needs to be done to achieve specific actions that support the Foster Carers' Charter.

The role of councillors and local government officers

In simple terms, a corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a parent would. They may not be able to provide everything a loving parent can, but they should still be able to provide the children and young people they're responsible for with the best possible support and care.

The concept is intended to encourage people and organisations to do as much as they can to make sure children and young people feel in control of their lives and able to overcome the barriers they face.

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Councillors, as corporate parents, have an important role to play in ensuring that every child in their council's care services receives the best care possible. They should be striving to provide the level of care they would be happy for their own children to receive. I hope that through your corporate parenting role you will share my vision for all children and young people in Wales to have an equal chance to be the best they can be.

||

Sally Holland - children's commissioner for Wales

The obligations of councillors and local government officers

The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the duty of councils to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child and care leaver in their care (part 6, section 78).

All councillors share corporate parenting responsibility, but this does not mean that everyone has the same role. Those councillors who chair corporate parenting groups, or who are involved with the thematic scrutiny of children's services will have a greater role day-to-day, for example, than those who are responsible for environment or planning decisions.

You can read more about this in the Corporate Parenting Workbook, published by the Social Services Improvement Agency in June 2016.



Why is corporate parenting so important?

There are many reasons for children needing to be looked after, which can include parental abuse, neglect or abandonment. This will have already placed them at a disadvantage and so it is vital that their experiences in public care compensate for this disadvantage. These children and young people need their corporate parents to be their champions as they endeavour to get them what they need and to ensure they are safe.

Children need to be provided with good care at an early stage or they are at risk of entering a downward spiral of disrupted placements, which can lead to more problems for them and, inevitably, higher costs for the local authority.

One of the most important benefits of good corporate parenting is to improve the outcomes for individual children. This will only happen if suitable services have been developed that examine the needs of the children being looked after and ensure these are met. There is then much less need to look outside the authority in order to purchase emergency or specialist provision. This provision is not only expensive, but is also a lot less likely to provide the child with the stability they need going forward, which can lead to worse outcomes for that child.

There is also the impact that effective corporate parenting can have on a local authority's performance. While the Welsh Government no longer sets targets for local authority services, there is still the expectation that they should be monitoring their own performance, especially in key areas. These include whether looked after children have received regular health assessments, that they are achieving satisfactorily in education and are living in stable placements.

It is a fact that good local services and placements will improve looked after children's life chances, will be better value for money and will no doubt then contribute to good performance ratings.

If this were my child...

When you become an elected member, you also become responsible for ensuring that the council acts as a good corporate parent for all the children it looks after. The role of corporate parent is to ensure that children in public care receive the same outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The local authority has a legal and moral duty to provide such support to the children it looks after.

A common misconception about children in care is that they are there because they have done something wrong. The overwhelming majority of children in care are there because of family pressures and problems, or because they have experienced abuse or neglect. They may have had a breakdown in their birth family, illness, or needed to be removed from their home because of a situation where their safety and welfare had been threatened.



Once a child becomes looked after, all members and officers of the council, as their corporate parents, need to be concerned about that child as if they were their own. This concern should encompass the child's education, health and welfare, what they do in their leisure time and holidays, how they celebrate their culture or religion, and how they receive praise and encouragement for their achievements.

It should be part of all councillors' responsibilities as corporate parents to be satisfied that there is a joined-up, effective and holistic approach to meeting the needs of looked after children through the local planning arrangements – the Foster Carers' Charter is a promise to make this a reality.

The council must also ensure that services for adults are able to support the child's transition to adulthood and support the child and young person's family. Too often, disagreements between council departments about which has responsibility for looked after children and care leavers can result in these children and young people being denied the services and support to which they are entitled. Effective joint working and active corporate parenting should prevent this from happening.

The council as a whole is the corporate parent, therefore, all councillors have a level of responsibility for the children looked after by the authority. Elected members, managers and staff have different tasks and levels of responsibility, but all must take an active part in ensuring the best possible care and opportunities are available for children.

Corporate parenting responsibilities will only be delivered effectively where there is clear political commitment and leadership, and when senior managers agree that this is a priority and make it explicit in strategic and business plans. This requires there to be mechanisms for all councillors to receive accurate information and find out about the basic issues faced by such children in their area. This does not mean that it would be appropriate to share personal information about individual children with you, but rather that you have access to general information about trends and issues affecting looked after children, as well as the quality and range of services provided to them.

You can read more about this in *If This Were My Child: A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers* published by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association.



What is the corporate parenting role for councillors and officers?

All services that support looked after children have a corporate parent responsibility, and we are all accountable to the children and young people who are looked after.

As an elected member, you can help by playing an active role in your community, by regularly attending meetings of organisations that have involvement with looked after children and care leavers. They are a valuable source of information in helping you to identify the local issues affecting looked after children and care leavers, and will help you to ask those questions that will give you confidence that local services are supporting their welfare.

We must all strive for children in our care to succeed in the same way that any parent would strive for their own children. This can mean providing advice and guidance to a young person who is starting to live independently, supporting foster carers, ensuring that children's mental health is safeguarded, helping a young person find a job, or listening to their hopes and aspirations, problems and insecurities. There is a wide range of people and organisations who need to work together, and it is your responsibility within your area to find out they are doing this. You are, in effect, the 'oil in the engine' that will drive progress forward.

All councillors should be aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities. This should be supported through training sessions on the role of a corporate parent, which will also form a compulsory element of the induction process for councillors. Support from officers and training will enable councillors to undertake their role in the most effective and timely way and develop knowledge in the following areas:

- Having a clear understanding and awareness of the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Championing the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Constructively challenging the implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Communicating with all partners and stakeholders, so they have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them, so that they can influence those decisions positively.
- Challenging whether the council is keeping the promise and commitment it has made in the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Requesting evidence of positive and developmental outcomes, especially those in your ward area.
- Asking how all elements of council business have an impact on the successful implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Making connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision making, relevant to the Foster Carers' Charter.
- Consistently asking, 'Would this be good enough for my own child?'

Self assessment for councillors

Part One - Translating the Foster Carers' Charter into reality

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.1 Does your local authority have the Foster Carers' Charter in place already?		
1.2 Is there clear leadership and responsibility through one or more executive members taking lead responsibility for the delivery of the Foster Carers' Charter?		
1.3 Do you know the lead member with responsibility for the charter and have they signed it?		
1.4 What links exist between the lead member with responsibility for the charter and other lead members with responsibility for children's services?		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
<p>1.5 How do you ensure that the leadership and accountability is clear? What are the reporting arrangements and are they accessible?</p>		
<p>1.6 Has an elected member been designated as a “Foster Carers’ Champion”, to raise awareness of foster care, including, for example, the role of fostering services and foster carers?</p>		
<p>1.7 What is in place to ensure that all members are aware of their responsibilities for successful implementation of the charter?</p>		
<p>1.8 Does your authority have effective processes in place to implement the Foster Carers’ Charter?</p>		
<p>1.9 How do partner agencies prioritise fostering? For example, is it explicit as a priority in their strategic and business plans?</p>		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
<p>1.10 How do you keep in touch with foster carers and looked after children so that you are aware of the issues affecting them?</p>		
<p>1.11 What other opportunities do you use to promote the charter, for example, as a school governor?</p>		
<p>1.12 Do you have an action plan for the review of the implementation of the charter?</p>		
<p>1.13 What provisions are in place to ensure foster carers have support and development opportunities in the area of the Foster Carers’ Charter ?</p>		

Self assessment for councillors

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers' Charter

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.1 Where does scrutiny of the Foster Carers' Charter take place?		
2.2 Is the charter considered by the council as a whole at your executive, board or cabinet meetings?		
2.3 What mechanisms are in place for the council to be appraised of the progress of the implementation of the charter?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.4 How do you reassure yourself that progress is being made?		
2.5 How are foster carers, children and fostering services able to provide feedback on the implementation?		
2.6 What processes are in place to access any complaints?		
2.7 What measures are in place to analyse performance on achieving the Foster Carers’ Charter?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers' Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.8 How is information on progress made available (for example, is there an annual report)?		
2.9 How can the analysis of progress influence decision making and policy development?		
2.10 How will you use any lessons learnt and promote areas of good practice?		
2.11 How are you kept up to date with Care Inspectorate Wales inspection reports on children's services?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.12 How does your local authority's performance compare with that of other local authorities?		
2.13 How is feedback on progress provided to all stakeholders?		
2.14 From what you know, would this care be good enough for your own child?		
2.15 What measures are in place to ensure that all stakeholders have an understanding of the charter, so that it becomes part of your council's culture?		
2.16 Are there appropriate activities for elected members to meet and listen to looked after children to celebrate and acknowledge their achievements?		

Self assessment for councillors

Part Three - Partners and working together

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.1 Who are the stakeholders that can assist in delivering the Foster Carers' Charter?		
3.2 What methods of communication has the local authority put in place to publicise the charter to stakeholders (for example, via the website, posters or newsletter articles)?		
3.3 How do you ensure that all partners are aware of, and working towards, the charter?		

Part Three – Partners and working together contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.4 What agreements other than the charter exist to assist with partnership working?		
3.5 What measures are in place to ensure that foster carers are enabled to participate as partners in the implementation of the charter?		
3.6 How are foster carers and children involved in decisions?		

Part Three - Partners and working together contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
<p>3.7 How do you ensure that methods of communication with stakeholders are effective and efficient?</p>		
<p>3.8 What provisions are in place to work with stakeholders/partners to discuss goals and strategy? Are the timescales reasonable and achievable?</p>		
<p>3.9 What opportunities are available for joint working and how are these supported? What else needs to be in place?</p>		
<p>3.10 How are partners held to account?</p>		

Self assessment for councillors

Part Four - National support

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
4.1 Where do you go for support on a local, regional and national basis?		
4.2 Are there any partner councils which can assist and are held up as best practice?		
4.3 How is best practice disseminated?		

Self assessment for local government officers

Part One - Translating the Foster Carers' Charter into reality

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.1 Does your local authority have the Foster Carers' Charter in place already?		
1.2 Do you know the lead member with responsibility for the charter and have they signed it?		
1.3 How have you publicised/can you publicise the charter?		
1.4 Who, within your department/ service, is key to the introduction and implementation of the charter?		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.5 What steps have you taken to ensure that all stakeholders within your remit have an understanding of the charter, so that it becomes part of the culture?		
1.6 What is in place to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities for the successful implementation of the charter?		
1.7 What role have you played in introducing elected members to the charter?		
1.8 Does your department/service have effective processes in place to implement the charter?		
1.9 Getting information when it is needed is vital for foster carers to provide care that meets the child’s needs. Does your department/service deliver on this?		

Self assessment for local government officers

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers' Charter

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.1 What mechanisms are in place to monitor progress against the implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter?		
2.2 What are the governance arrangements relating to the charter?		
2.3 How do you reassure yourself that progress is being made on implementation of the charter?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.4 Who do you tell if the charter is not being adhered to?		
2.5 How are foster carers, children and fostering services able to provide feedback on the implementation?		
2.6 How do you access good practice examples to learn from?		
2.7 What measures are in place to analyse performance on achieving the charter?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.8 How will you use any lessons learnt and promote good practice?		
2.9 How is feedback on progress shared with stakeholders?		
2.10 Would you consider what you have learnt about the care of looked after children in your local authority to be good enough for your child?		
2.11 How are complaints received and monitored? What measures are in place to learn lessons from complaints to improve services?		

Self assessment for local government officers

Part Three - Partners and working together

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.1 Is the Foster Carers' Charter publicised on your local authority's website and is it accessible in alternative formats?		
3.2 Does your children's services department and the wider organisation actively promote the Foster Carers' Charter?		
3.3 Does the local authority provide joint training to raise awareness of the charter and each other's roles and responsibilities?		
3.4 Are partners aware of their responsibilities and accountability?		

Part Three - Partners and working together contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.5 Are partner agencies made aware of, and do they adhere to, the requirements of the charter?		
3.6 Who are the stakeholders that can assist in delivering the charter?		
3.7 How do you ensure that all partners are working towards the charter?		
3.8 How do you hold partners to account?		
3.9 What agreements, other than the charter, exist to assist with partnership working?		

Part Three – Partners and working together contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.10 How are foster carers and children involved in decisions, training and other initiatives?		
3.11 What level of autonomy is given to foster carers to make everyday decisions to ensure that children can feel part of the family?		
3.12 What mechanisms are in place to offer 24-hour support to foster carers?		
3.13 What support is provided locally for foster carers and their families to share experiences?		

Self assessment for local government officers

Part Four - National support

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
4.1 Where do you go for support on a local, regional and national basis?		
4.2 Are there any partner councils which can assist and are held up as best practice?		
4.3 How does the Foster Carers' Charter link to and complement the National Fostering Framework?		

The role of foster carers

Foster carers can transform the lives of the young people that they work with, bringing stability and security when a child is most in need.

They care for the child's physical needs (providing a place to sleep, food, drink and warmth), but also for their emotional needs (enabling them to feel valued and listened to, and helping them to come to terms with past difficulties). Foster carers also assist children to take their place in society by supporting their education, helping them manage their behaviour and preparing them for independent living.

Foster carers look after the children in their care 24 hours a day, seven days a week and, therefore, will typically be best placed to comment on their behaviour, moods and reactions. Often the child confides in the foster carer and, where a child is unable to communicate this to children's services, their foster carer will act as an advocate on his or her behalf.

Fostering is a multi-faceted role, which will inevitably have an impact upon the foster carer, their family and community. All partners need to remain mindful of the demands of fostering and respect the fact that foster carers will need to consider their own needs and those of others in their home when making decisions about whether to accept or continue with a particular placement.

Everyone involved in fostering should have an appreciation of the demanding and varied task that foster carers undertake. Foster carers are core members of the team working with fostered children, and should be recognised and respected by all stakeholders for the knowledge, skills and experience they bring to their role.

As we emphasised earlier, the Foster Carers' Charter, which is agreed by fostering services and their foster carers, will help to ensure that foster carers are regarded as full members of the team working with the child. Foster carers also have a key role in the effective implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter.



The importance of foster carers participating in the self-assessment process

In Wales, the services on both a local and regional level, who are most closely concerned with the care of looked after children and young people, their education, leisure and healthcare, are referred to as the 'corporate parents'. Children and young people are a social responsibility.

When foster carers are first approved, their main interest is in looking after the children or young people in their care. Initially, they may not be interested in how local authority services are organised and structured. However, as foster carers gain more skills and experience, they will tell you that it is worth knowing how corporate parenting works.

Knowing how the different services, teams and social workers relate to one another, and about their relevant policies and guidance material, will significantly help a foster carer. It will help them to be able to deal with issues such as safer caring, and also help them in supporting and advocating for the children or young people in their care.

The Fostering Network supports a risk sensible approach to safer caring, which challenges the risk averse culture that has developed within some aspects of children's social care across the UK. This risk sensible, or risk aware, approach introduces a way of thinking about principles for safeguarding children and young people in foster care, at the same time as offering guidance to protect foster carers and their families from complaints and allegations. Find out more in our publication [Safer Caring](#) which is a vital resource for everyone involved in the care of fostered children and young people.

Self Assessment for foster carers

Part One - Translating the Foster Carers' Charter into reality

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.1 Does your fostering service have the Foster Carers' Charter in place already?		
1.2 Do you know the lead councillor who has responsibility for delivering the Foster Carers' Charter?		
1.3 How are you assessed, trained and supported to look after children and young people?		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.4 How do you present yourself as a positive role model to children and young people?		
1.5 How involved are you in decision making and planning with other partners in the fostering service?		
1.6 How effective are the relationships between all the members of the fostering team and the children in your care?		
1.7 Is there a fostering handbook in place in your fostering service?		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
1.8 Do you have access to information other than your handbook, such as the fostering service’s policies and guidance, in their original form?		
1.9 Is the authority that is delegated to you to make decisions on behalf of children and young people made clear?		
1.10 What is the structure of the authority responsible for the care plans of the children you are caring for?		
1.11 Who is the manager bridging the fostering and child care teams, and where are they located in the authority’s structure?		

Part One – Translating the Foster Carers’ Charter into reality contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
<p>1.12 What is the role, function and location of the team responsible for the case of your fostered children?</p>		
<p>1.13 How do you, your supervising social worker and your fostered children communicate? How can you ensure that everyone receives the information from you that they require?</p>		
<p>1.14 What risk assessment policies and procedures exist in the fostering service you work for, or the local authority of the children placed with you? Are they being adhered to? Have you seen the paperwork and guidance?</p>		

Self Assessment for foster carers

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers' Charter

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.1 How do you monitor the progress made on the implementation of the Foster Carers' Charter?		
2.2 Are you clear and confident about what is expected of you as a foster carer?		
2.3 How involved are you in relation to plans regarding placements?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.4 How confident are your children in their ability to access help and advice from you and social workers?		
2.5 Do you regularly attend events such as learning and development opportunities?		
2.6 How often do you respond to local consultations and how are children encouraged to get involved?		
2.7 How often do you and your children meet with councillors, service managers and others to inform or develop the service, on a local, national and/or regional level?		

Part Two – Monitoring progress of the Foster Carers’ Charter contd.

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
2.8 How do you ensure your children have the right to make decisions regarding their own lives?		
2.9 How do you ensure that children know who their corporate parents are?		
2.10 What do children say about what they expect from their corporate parents?		
2.11 How do you act as an ambassador for the fostering service?		
2.12 How do you learn about support events from organisations like The Fostering Network, NYAS or Voices from Care. Do you attend any of these?		

Self Assessment for foster carers

Part Three - Partners and working together

Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.1 Who are the partners that can assist in delivering the Foster Carers' Charter?		
3.2 How do you ensure that all partners are working towards the charter?		
3.3 How do you hold partners to account?		

Part Three - Partners and working together contd.

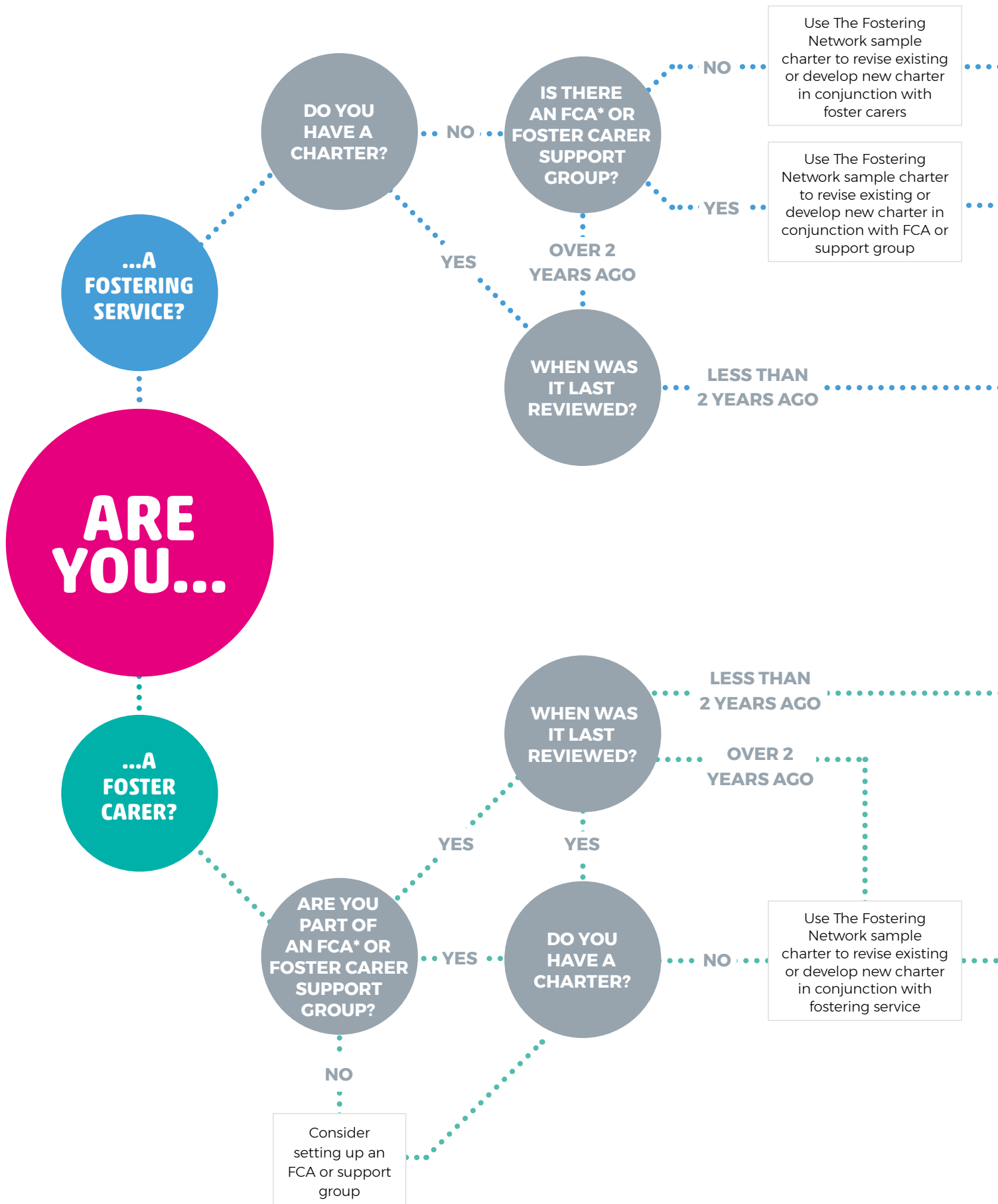
Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
3.4 How are you and your children involved in decision making with partners?		
3.5 Do you think there is mutual respect between you and the fostering service?		
3.6 Are others involved in the fostering service, such as councillors and local authority staff, invited to attend your Foster Care Association or support group?		
3.7 How valued and supported are you as a foster carer?		

Self Assessment for foster carers

Part Four - National support

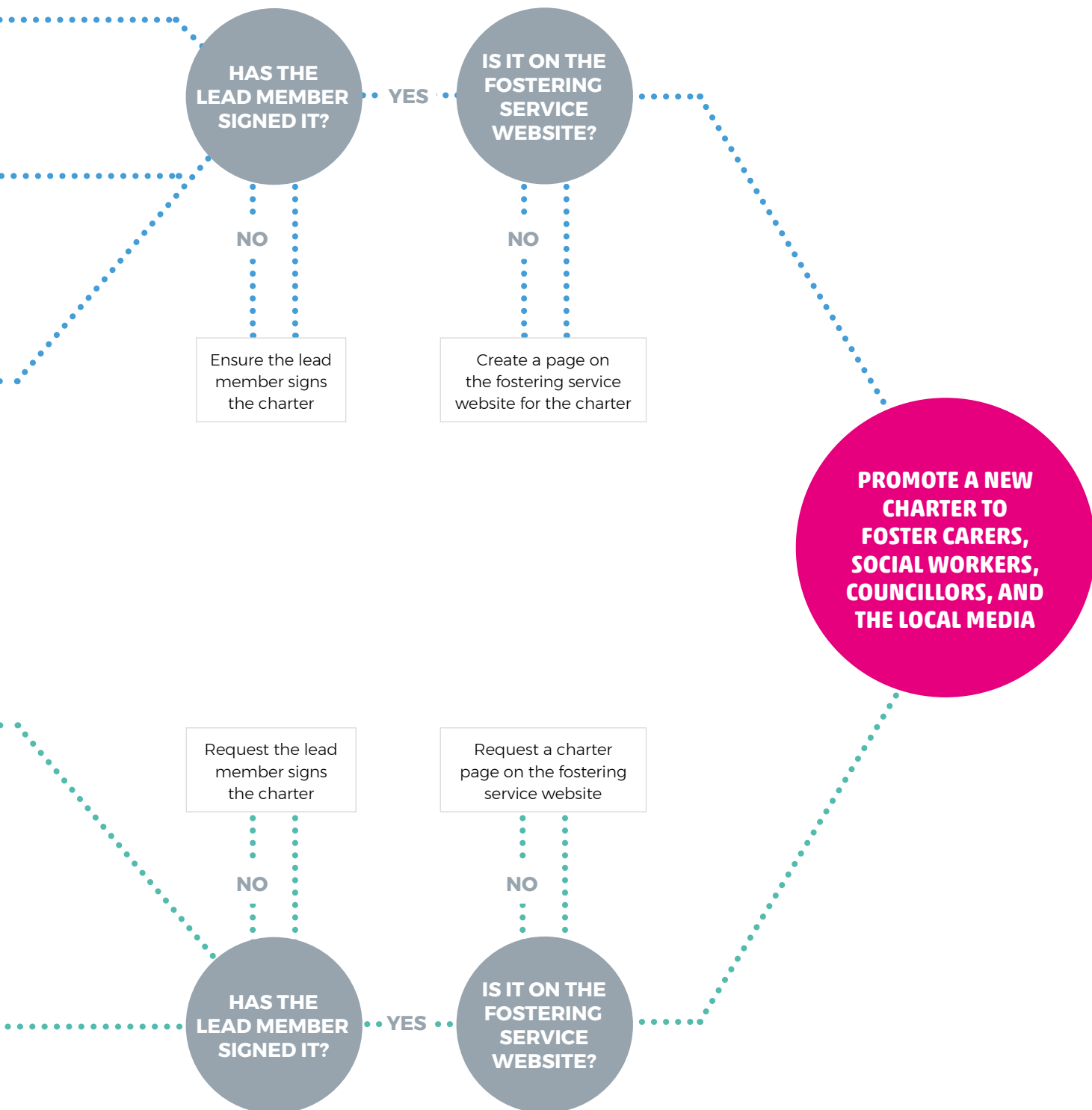
Question	Response	What action/s can you take to improve?
4.1 Could you lobby your local councillor to ensure that they are aware of the charter and involved in the implementation of it?		
4.2 If there were a qualification for foster carers would you see this as an opportunity to further develop as a foster carer?		
4.3 Do you take up opportunities, when they arise, to meet with representatives of the local authority, Office of the Children’s Commissioner or Welsh Government, to speak of your experience as a foster carer?		
4.4 What would you tell the Welsh Government about what could improve the experience of a child in foster care, or your experience as a foster carer?		

Foster Carer's Charter Implementation Flowchart





Lead councillor for children's services



Lead councillor for children's services

*FCA = Foster Care Association. For more information about setting up a local Foster Care Association, please contact The Fostering Network on campaigns@fostering.net.



About The Fostering Network

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity. We are the essential network for fostering, bringing together everyone who is involved in the lives of fostered children. We support foster carers to transform children's lives and we work with fostering services and the wider sector to develop and share best practice.

We work to ensure all fostered children and young people experience stable family life and we are passionate about the difference foster care makes. We champion fostering and seek to create vital change so that foster care is the very best it can be.

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