



**The  
Fostering  
Network**

# Strategic Plan Roundtable Durham Conference 2019

An invitation to Members to take an active part today in shaping the focus of The Fostering Network, moving forward.

# Strategic Objectives from 2016 to 2020

- **Strategic Objective 1: Child-centred**
  - Provide opportunities for children and young people that benefit them, make their voices heard and enable them to reach their potential.
- **Strategic Objective 2: Influential**
  - Promote foster care to ensure society understands, values and recognises how foster carers transform children's lives.

# Strategic Objectives

- **Strategic Objective 3: Connected**
  - Influence policy and the legislative framework so it supports and promotes excellence in foster care
- **Strategic Objective 4: Growing and Responsive**
  - Support fostering families and the services that work with them to provide the best possible care for children and young people

# Our Ambition by 2020

- All children will have the opportunity to play a proactive role in the decisions made about their lives, with systems and decision making processes designed to reflect their views and needs
- You will see positive role models and case studies used in the national media that challenge stereotypes and better reflect the positive outcomes for young people with experience of foster care

# Our Ambition by 2020

- All children will have the opportunity to stay with their foster carers post-18, when both they and their foster carers want this
- The educational attainment gap for young people in care will have decreased by 2% (when measured at 16 against the general population)

# Our Ambition by 2020

- The care system will offer a range of permanence options where there is no hierarchy and instead services and support will be chosen based on the needs of young people, not their legal status
- All fostered children will receive appropriate support and intervention to build upon their emotional wellbeing and reduce their mental health needs

# Our Ambition by 2020

- The importance of relationships (for young people and foster carers) will be recognised as central to first class foster care, and local process and practice will be designed to reflect this



# Our Ambition by 2020

- There will be sufficient foster carers with a range of skills and expertise, so that a child can be placed with a carer who can meet their needs when a placement is required
- We will see improved recognition of foster carers as professionals, with 75% of foster carers feeling they are valued as professionals and valued as part of the wider team around a child

# Our Ambition by 2020

- 100% of foster carers receiving at least the stated minimum fostering allowances, including allowances for providing post-18 care
- 100% of foster carers feeling well trained and supported by their fostering service, in order to provide the best possible care for the children in their care

# Our Ambition by 2020

- 100% of foster carers feeling empowered to make appropriate decisions and advocate on behalf of the children in their care, as they would for a child of their own

# What do we need from you today?

**Please give us your views on TFN's**

- 1. Strengths**
- 2. Threats / Challenges**
- 3. Opportunities**
- 4. What you think our practice and campaign priorities should be over the next five years**