



Training for Panel Members

Ideal for business meetings, annual panel training days and staff development

What is “support care”?

Short term, time-limited care for children who are at risk of being taken into long-term foster care. Typically support care is offered to families for one weekend a month, an evening a week or even just a few hours after school. A plan is drawn up with the family to address issues. Support carers are an important part of the team around the family. They are there to help bring about change so that the family can stay together and become less reliant on social services support. Support care can be offered under Section 17 or Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

**TOP
10**

A survey of support care schemes across England and Wales has identified the top ten reasons why families need support care:-

Mental Health of Parent/Carer

Sibling Conflict

Child protection register

Breakdown in relationship between parents

Parent Adolescent Conflict

Violent behaviour in family/risk to other family members

Drug/alcohol issues of parent/carer

Statement of Special Educational Need

Learning Disability of child

ADHD

Why is the training important?

Support carers are trained and assessed in the same way as foster carers and although there are many similarities in the role, there are also some important differences which are addressed during the training. Panel members who have already attended training have commented;

“ I didn't realise how active a role support carers had to be prepared to play in supporting the whole family, not just the child placed with them.”

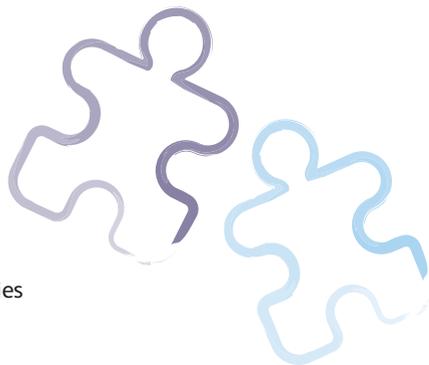


“ As soon as I heard more about support care at our vulnerable children's panel, I could think of at least 3 families for whom this provision could make a real difference.”

Who is the training suitable for?

Panel members who;

- Approve and review support carers
- Monitor matching of children and degree of choice
- Monitor range and type of carers
- Manage the access to service provision for children on the edge of care
- Identify areas of unmet need for children and families
- Assist staff in seeking packages of family support



How does support care make a difference for families?

"My sister usually gives me a break when I can't cope with my daughter. When my sister broke her leg I was having a really bad time and was so relieved when my daughter was offered a support care break for 4 months, from Friday morning to Sunday morning every week. It gave me time to have some counselling and I was able to help my sister for a change!"

Mum with mental health issues

"When my baby sister arrived, I felt like she got all the attention. The only way I could get my mother's attention was by kicking off. I went to my support carer's house every weekend for nearly a year. She took me to Beavers, helped me with my homework, came to watch me play football and even invited my mate round to play."

Michael, age 7

"When Chloe arrived, I suffered from post-natal depression and being a single Mum, I really struggled. Diane the support carer gave me some breathing space while I got some help and got into some routines with Chloe. Michael doesn't need to go to Diane's any more. He's in Cubs now and my friend looks after Chloe when I go to watch him play football. I went to a course at his school about helping your child to read and once every fortnight his mate comes over while Chloe is at her Dad's. I was really scared they were going to take Michael off me at one stage, but that won't be happening now!"

Michael's Mum

"If support care had been around when my Dad started drinking, maybe I wouldn't have ended up in long-term foster care."

Suzanne, age 17

How do we book a training session?

If you would like to book a Support Care training session for your panel members, please contact Philippa.williams@fostering.net. There is no charge for this training which is funded through the 'Strengthening Families' Big Lottery project run by The Fostering Network Wales.

Cefnogydd gan
Supported by



The Fostering Network Wales
'Strengthening Families' project

Funded by the Big Lottery

rhwydwaith maethu
llais gofal maeth

the fostering network
the voice of foster care

