

## TRAINING FOR FOSTER CARERS

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I am an independent practitioner, trainer and consultant with over 30 years' experience as a social worker, including over a decade as Fostering Development Consultant with BAAF/CoramBAAF, and have been a foster carer.

I only train in areas where I can evidence a high degree of knowledge and expertise, often having authored good practice guidance in that subject area. For more information about my publications see [www.pauladamsfostering.uk](http://www.pauladamsfostering.uk)

I have found that training sessions running from 10am – 2pm work well for foster carers, and while I prefer face-to-face delivery, I also recognise the benefits that come with virtual training. Diversity is recognised and considered within each course, and evaluations show that about 90% of delegates rate my face-to-face training as 'excellent'.

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## Safeguarding for foster carers

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Considered the different ways in which children might be at risk of harm, including the risk of exploitation in the community
- Thought about the signs and symptoms of harm and abuse, and considered best practice in responding to any disclosures
- Reflected on learning from some safeguarding reviews, and the relevance of these for assessing and managing risk

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## Allegations and safer caring

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Understood the difference between an allegation, complaint, and 'standard of care' concern
  - Thought about why an allegation might be made, and learned about the processes that are followed in investigating these
  - Considered recognised safer caring practices, and identified good practice in developing a family safer caring plan
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## Working with birth families

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Considered the idea and importance of 'communicative openness' and how this is crucial in helping children with their identity
  - Looked at the purpose and benefits of contact/ family time, and reflected on their own attitudes
  - Explored some of the challenges that come with working with birth families, including in the context of social media
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## Parent and child fostering

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Considered the legal, research, and practice context of parent and child fostering
  - Looked at what is required of parent and child foster carers, and the challenges of undertaking this role
  - Explored key aspects of parent and child fostering and reflected on what constitutes good practice
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## Record keeping for foster carers

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Understood the legal and practice expectations of foster carers in relation to data protection and record keeping
  - Considered the different purposes of record keeping, including the importance of this for children and young people
  - Reflected on the quality of their own recording, and explored any areas for improvement
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## Getting the most out of your foster carer review

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Thought about the legal and practice framework for undertaking foster carer reviews
  - Considered foster carer involvement and participation in the process
  - Reflected on effectively presenting evidence of their continued suitability to foster
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## The culturally competent foster carer

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Considered aspects of their own identity, and reflected on their attitudes and belief systems
  - Thought about equality, diversity and inclusion as this relates to children in foster care
  - Explored what it means to be a 'culturally competent' foster carer
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## CONTACT

Please contact me to discuss your training and consultancy needs:

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