

# Contract Carer

## information sheet



### Shared Care within the Fostering Service

Shared Carers provide short breaks to disabled children in the carers' home. They are assessed and approved as part time foster carers providing short breaks to children with learning disabilities, physical disabilities or both. Children are referred for such a service via the Disabled Children's Team.

### Contract Carers

A Contract Carer is a shared carer with a "contract" to provide a specified number of nights to provide short breaks to disabled children.

As this will be a full time role, we will expect the carer to have previous experience of working with a variety of disabled children and provide high standards of care. We also will be expecting the carer to dedicate time to this role and not have other foster placements. We are looking to recruit carers whose own children are at a different developmental stage, to enable them to provide for the child's needs without there being a conflict of interest.

Working from home in this way is physically and emotionally demanding and can also be isolating. It is therefore essential that applicants have a supportive family/friendship network to sustain them. As with other forms of fostering, Contract Carers also receive regular support and supervision from a supervising social worker.

### Expectations of Time

Contract carers will be expected to provide 200 nights per year and for these to include two weekends per month. There is also an expectation that carers will dedicate 20 days per year to meetings (training, supervision, placement meetings). The rest of the time will be seen as needed "time off". Other regular paid employment should not be undertaken.

### Medication

Contract Carers will be required to administer medication as prescribed and directed. Specialist training may be needed for certain procedures in relation to an individual child (for example in the management of epilepsy).

## Accommodation

It is expected that the disabled child will have their own bedroom and appropriate facilities during visits. The accommodation should be accessible and suitable for the varying needs of disabled children and young people. An Occupational Therapist would advise on the necessary requirements.

It is expected that the disabled children/young people will have a smoke free environment for the duration of their short breaks in the Contract Carers home.

## Payments and Expenses

The Contract Care fee is £14,000 per year. This will be paid in monthly instalments following approval by the Fostering Panel and as soon as the first child begins introductions. Additional Fostering Allowances will be paid for each overnight stay.

Payments will be made through the council's Bank Automated Credit System.

Travelling expenses incurred on Telford & Wrekin Council business will be paid at an approved rate.

It will be the individual Contract Carer's responsibility to properly maintain tax, insurance and pension payments in line with their self-employed status.

## Training

Contact Carers will be expected to engage in ongoing development and training. This will include work relating to the Foster Carer Induction Standards.

## Legislation

Contract carers are managed within the legislative framework of:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Care Standards Act 2000
- Fostering Service Regulations 2002
- Fostering Service Regulations 2002
- National Minimum Standards for Foster Carers 2002
- Disability Discrimination Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008

