

# Fostering Services

## for Directors and Assistant Directors Of Children's Services

- Strategic reviews
- Tracking performance and quality assurance systems
- Coaching, mentoring and skills development

The government has developed and implemented an ambitious reform program to improve services for looked after children and the adoption system. The program aims to improve the quality of care and the stability of placements for children in care, be they in residential care homes or with a foster family, so that all children can succeed in life.

### To improve the quality of foster care, the program concentrates on improving 7 areas:

- Commissioning of fostering services
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers
- The assessment and approval of foster carers
- Delegation of authority to foster carers
- Long-term foster placements
- Supporting children returning home from foster care
- Training/support for foster carers and social workers

C4EO provides tailored support to local authorities and independent fostering agencies to help review practice and move forward to implement reforms and improve the quality and delivery of services.

### C4EO provides:

- Strategic reviews to identify strengths and areas for Improvement in systems (LA & IFA).
- Support to consider shared services and regional approaches across local authorities, including an analysis of best practice and a whole systems approach to developing joint services.
- Support to LAs considering a reconfiguration of placement services and/or reinvestment of any savings.
- Support towards meeting sufficiency requirements.
- Embedding safeguarding practices in fostering services by supporting carers of vulnerable young people; developing peer support for young people; skilling workers with up to date safeguarding knowledge; ensuring strategic multi-agency support.
- Support to develop and test foster carer recruitment practices.
- 'Advanced' work with carers and social workers around attachment.
- Support to improve planning and provision of long term placements.
- Support with tracking performance and quality assurance systems.

For more information and to find out how we can help you with your specific requirements please email us at [contactus@c4eo.org.uk](mailto:contactus@c4eo.org.uk) or call 020 7833 6825.

**C4EO draws on specialists from different professional backgrounds across all areas of children's services depending on the need identified, using the best available evidence, research and practice.**

*C4EO is a not-for-profit organisation and operates on a cost-recovery basis. This allows us to keep all of our costs at an affordable level, whilst providing the highest quality service.*

### C4EO's service is guided by the following principles:

- *All support must be evidence-based and add value.*
- *We work with services and agencies ('not doing to' or 'doing for').*
- *All support leaves a legacy of sustainable improvement through building local capacity.*