

## Assessment Framework

### Foster Care

**Theme 1: Child Centred Services**

*Services for children are centred on the individual child and his/her care and support needs. Child-centred services provide the right support at the right time to enable children to lead their lives in as fulfilling a way as possible. A child-centred approach to service provision is one where services are planned and delivered with the active involvement and participation of the children who use services.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****National Standards for Foster Care****Standard 1**

Positive sense of identity

**Standard 2**

Family and friends

**Standard 3**

Children's rights

**Standard 4**

Valuing diversity

**Standard 25**

Representations and complaints

**Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995*****Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995******Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations, 1995****Part III Article 8: Religion***Lines of Enquiry****1.1** Are the rights of children respected and promoted?**1.2** Does the service meet children's needs in relation to diversity, disability, communication and literacy?**1.3** Does the service communicate effectively with children and families?**1.4** Are children able to maintain positive relationships with their parents, siblings and significant others?**1.5** Are complaints and concerns effectively managed?

**Theme 2: Safe and Effective Services**

*Services promote the safety of children by protecting them from abuse and neglect and following policy and procedure in reporting any concerns of abuse and/or neglect to the relevant authorities. Effective services ensure that the systems are in place to promote children's welfare. Assessment and planning is central to the identification of children's care needs. In order to provide the care children require, foster carers are assessed, approved and supported. Each child receives the supports they require to maintain their wellbeing.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****National Standards for Foster Care****Standard 5**

The child and family social worker

**Standard 6**

Assessment of children and young people

**Standard 7**

Care planning and review

**Standard 8**

Matching carers with children and young people

**Standard 9**

A safe and positive environment

**Standard 10**

Safeguarding and child protection

**Standard 13**

Preparation for leaving care and adult life

**Standard 14**

14a. Assessment and approval of non-relative foster carers

14b. Assessment and approval of relative foster carers

**Standard 15**

Supervision and support

**Standard 16**

Training

**Standard 17**

Reviews of foster carers

**Standard 22**

Special Foster care

Health Boards provide for a special foster care service for children and young people with serious behavioural difficulties.

<p><b>Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995</b></p>	<p><b><i>Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995</i></b>  <i>Part III, Article 5: Assessment of foster parents</i>  <i>Part III, Article 6: Assessment of circumstances of child</i>  <i>Part III, Article 7: Capacity of foster parents to meet the needs of child</i>  <i>Part III, Article 9: Contract</i>  <i>Part III, Article 11: Care plans</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 17: (1) Supervision and visiting of children</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 18: Review of cases</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 19: Special review</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 20: Frequent admissions to care</i></p> <p><b><i>Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations, 1995</i></b>  <i>Part III, Article 5: Assessment of relatives</i>  <i>Part III, Article 7: Assessment of circumstances of child</i>  <i>Part III, Article 9: Contract</i>  <i>Part III, Article 11: Care plans</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 17: (1) Supervision and visiting of children</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 18: Review of cases</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 19: Special review</i>  <i>Part IV, Article 20: Frequent admissions to care</i></p>
<p><b>Lines of Enquiry</b></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Does the service fulfil all of its statutory requirements in relation to children in foster care?</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Do children receive the emotional and physical care they require?</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Are children prepared and supported for leaving care and adult life?</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Are foster carers assessed and reviewed effectively and in a timely manner in order to meet children’s needs?</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Are the necessary supports provided to children with complex needs?</p> <p><b>2.6</b> Are there sufficient supports for foster carers to ensure effective delivery of care?</p> <p><b>2.7</b> Are there measures in place to safeguard and protect children from abuse?</p>

**Theme 3: Health and Development**

*The health and development needs of children are assessed and arrangements are in place to meet the assessed needs. Children's educational needs are given high priority to support them to achieve at school and access education or training in adult life.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****National Standards for Foster Care****Standard 11**

Health and development

**Standard 12**

Education

**Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995**
***Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995***
*Part III, Article 6: Assessment of circumstances of child*
*Part IV, Article 16: (2)(d) Duties of foster parents*
***Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations, 1995***
*Part III, Article 7: Assessment of circumstances of child*
*Part IV, Article 16: (2)(d) Duties of relatives*
**Lines of Enquiry**
**3.1** Are children's health care needs assessed and met?

**3.2** Do children receive appropriate education and support in order to maximise their potential?

**Theme 4: Leadership, Governance and Management**

*Effective governance is achieved by planning and directing activities, using good business practices, accountability and integrity. In an effective governance structure, there are clear lines of accountability at individual, team and service levels and all staff working in the service are aware of their responsibilities. Risks to the service as well as to individual systems are well managed and the system is subject to a rigorous quality assurance system. Services provided on behalf of the area are robustly monitored. The Foster Care Committee is a robust mechanism for approving both placements and foster care applications.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**National Standards for Foster Care**

**Standard 18**

Effective policies

**Standard 19**

Management and monitoring of foster care services

**Standard 23**

The foster care committee

**Standard 24**

Placement of children through non-statutory agencies

**Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995**

***Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995***

*Part III, Article 5: Assessment of foster carers*

*Part III, Article 5: Assessment of foster carers*

*Part IV, Article 12: Maintenance of register*

*Part IV, Article 17: Supervision and visiting of children*

***Child Care (Placement of Children with Relatives) Regulations, 1995***

*Part III, Article 5: Assessment of relatives*

*Part IV, Article 12: Maintenance of register*

*Part IV, Article 17: Supervision and visiting of children*

*Part VI, Article 24: Arrangements with voluntary bodies and other person*

**Lines of Enquiry**

**4.1** Are there effective management and governance structures and systems in place which identify clear lines of authority and accountability?

**4.2** Is the service well planned?

**4.3** Is there a robust quality assurance system in place?

**4.4** Is there an effective foster care committee (FCC)?

**4.5** Does the service use quality information to plan and deliver effective service?

**Theme 5: Use of resources**

*Services recruit sufficient foster carers to meet the needs of children in the area. Foster carers stay with the service and continue to offer placements to children.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****National Standards for Foster Care****Standard 21**

Recruitment and retention of an appropriate range of foster carers

**Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995**

None

**Lines of Enquiry****5.1** Are there effective recruitment and retention strategies to maintain an appropriate range of foster carers?

**Theme 6: Workforce**

*Each staff member has a key role to play in delivering child-centred, effective and safe services to support children. Children's services recruit and manage their workforce to ensure that staff have the required skills, experience and competencies to respond to the needs of children.*

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child****National Standards for Foster Care**

**Standard 20**  
Training and qualifications

**Child Care (Placement of Children in Foster Care) Regulations, 1995 and Child Care (Placement of Children With Relatives) Regulations, 1995**

None

**Lines of Enquiry**

- 6.1** Are staff members recruited in accordance with legislation, standards and policies?
- 6.2** Are there sufficient experienced and qualified staff in place to deliver the service?
- 6.3** Are staff supported and supervised appropriately?
- 6.4** Do staff receive adequate training?