



*Making Social Care
Better for People*

inspection report

FOSTERING SERVICE

Rainbow Fostering Services Ltd

**10 Churchill Court
58 Station Road
North Harrow
Middlesex
HA2 7SA**

Lead Inspector
Bernard Burrell

Announced Inspection
21st November 2005 10:00

The Commission for Social Care Inspection aims to:

- Put the people who use social care first
- Improve services and stamp out bad practice
- Be an expert voice on social care
- Practise what we preach in our own organisation

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This is a report of an inspection to assess whether services are meeting the needs of people who use them. The legal basis for conducting inspections is the Care Standards Act 2000 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for this establishment are those for *Fostering Services*. They can be found at www.dh.gov.uk or obtained from The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

Every Child Matters, outlined the government's vision for children's services and formed the basis of the Children Act 2004. It provides a framework for inspection so that children's services should be judged on their contribution to the outcomes considered essential to wellbeing in childhood and later life. Those outcomes are:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a contribution; and
- Achieving economic wellbeing.

In response, the Commission for Social Care Inspection has re-ordered the national minimum standards for children's services under the five outcomes, for reporting purposes. A further section has been created under 'Management' to cover those issues that will potentially impact on all the outcomes above.

Copies of *Every Child Matters* and *The Children Act 2004* are available from The Stationery Office as above

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SERVICE INFORMATION

Name of service	Rainbow Fostering Services Ltd
Address	10 Churchill Court 58 Station Road North Harrow Middlesex HA2 7SA
Telephone number	020 8427 3355
Fax number	020 8427 4466
Email address	
Provider Web address	
Name of registered provider(s)/company (if applicable)	Rainbow Fostering Services
Name of registered manager (if applicable)	Mrs Fouzia Darr
Type of registration	Fostering Agencies
No. of places registered (if applicable)	0
Category(ies) of registration, with number of places	

SERVICE INFORMATION

Conditions of registration:

Date of last inspection 31st January 2005

Brief Description of the Service:

Rainbow Fostering Services Ltd was established in 1998 with the objective of providing fostering services to children and young people who are in need of foster care. According to the agency's statement of purpose, it aims to recruit foster carers who are able to meet the welfare and general care needs of children and young people who are under the responsibility of local authority social services. The agency provides long/short term, respite and specialist foster care placements. In addition, it arranges and provides educational and therapeutic services, counselling support, sports and leisure activities for the children and young people being looked after. It also provides advice, training and support to its foster carers.

The agency is located in the London borough of Harrow in its own premises near to bus and underground transport routes. The service has a director, assistant director, service manager, policy development officer, supervising and independent social workers, assistant social workers, student social workers and a pool of administrative support staff and the panel members.

SUMMARY

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This inspection was conducted over two days with follow up attendance at a panel meeting. The inspector used the following resources to carry out the inspection: interviews with staff of the agency, foster carers, children and young people being looked after. Completed questionnaires were also received from the looked after children, young people, foster carers plus feedback from two local social services departments.

In addition, the inspector read and examined a number of records and case files of the children and young people being looked after and their foster carers. Many of their views are reflected and included in the findings of this inspection report. The inspector also used information provided by the agency, including the completed pre-inspection forms.

The overall findings indicated the agency continues to be operated in a professional manner, in line with regulatory requirements and in the interest of the looked after children and young people. The general view of foster carers and the looked after children and young people is that the agency provides a good service and offers invaluable support and guidance to its users.

What the service does well:

The agency has good systems and procedural guidelines in place that help to ensure suitable foster carers are recruited, trained, supported and supervised. It also ensures that regular monitoring of foster care placements takes place in the interest of the welfare, protection and safety of the looked after children and young people.

The children and young people who contributed to this inspection process reported satisfaction with the consistency, reliability and quality of support they received from the supervising social workers and other staff at the agency. The children and young people, who attend the Saturday school programme offered by the agency, also reported their satisfaction with this initiative and the benefits it offers them in their educational care needs.

The foster carers reported satisfaction with the level and reliability of support offered to them by the agency staff. The findings also indicated good effort is being made by the agency to provide foster carers with relevant professional training and development of their foster caring skills. The agency is also making good efforts to ensure that foster carers are providing the necessary support, stimulation and encouragement to the children and young people to help develop their potential and sense of wellbeing.

The agency's administrative and operational systems are organised and easy to access, with evidence of file and case auditing and updated information and required documentation on most case files. The agency's staff and

management continue to work cooperatively with external agencies and professionals. The management has also demonstrated a willingness to put necessary measures in place to help promote and safeguard the safety, welfare and rights of the looked after children and young people.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The provision of a Saturday school programme that offers extra educational support to the looked after children and young people, has been making positive changes and improvements in the educational needs and outcomes for a number of the children and young people.

The development of a monthly newsletter provides an opportunity for foster carers, looked after children and the agency staff to communicate with each other and learn about issues of relevance to their work and roles.

The development of the welfare, health and education monitoring forms provides another means by which the agency monitors the education and development progress of the children and young people in the foster care placements. It also places responsibility on the foster carers to ensure issues such as health care are actioned and updates are recorded and communicated to the agency.

The training programmes on offer to carers are more varied and attendance by the foster carers has improved. The training programmes are also helping to develop the skills and knowledge of the carers.

The agency now has more staff who are able to provide additional support to the looked after children, young people and foster carers. In addition, reorganisation of the staffing into an assessment and long- term teams has helped to focus the skills and expertise of the staff.

The agency has developed a programme called 'Rainbow Plus' that caters to the needs of children with challenging behaviours. In addition, there is now better emphasis on ensuring the agency's work is based on quantifiable evidence and linked to the fostering competencies such as in the Form F applications and the foster carers reviews.

The minutes of the panel meetings are organised better with appropriate checklists, action plans plus monthly reporting and feedback to the panel.

What they could do better:

The agency must ensure that all assistant social workers that do not have the required training or qualifications in social work, undertake the relevant training to help develop their skills and competence.

The agency should consider offering a training module in the legal process involved in fostering and adoption to its foster carers. It should also consider including an explanatory guide about the legal process involved in fostering in its foster carers guide when it is reviewed.

The agency should ensure there is adequate summary or recorded explanation of the reasons for placement matching decisions and approval made by the panel.

The agency must continue its efforts to recruit and retain social work staff that are qualified, skilled and experienced in children and family social work.

The agency should ensure the gaps identified in two cases files are reviewed and updated. The agency should also ensure that all recorded decisions made by the chair of the panel or other officers of the service are signed and dated.

The agency should consider offering more guidance/training to foster carers on how they should develop appropriate relationships and consultation with the birth parents of the looked after children and young people.

Please contact the provider for advice of actions taken in response to this inspection.

The report of this inspection is available from enquiries@csci.gsi.gov.uk or by contacting your local CSCI office.

DETAILS OF INSPECTOR FINDINGS

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Being Healthy

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- The fostering service promotes the health and development of children.(NMS 12)

The Commission considers Standard 12 the key standard to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

12

The agency ensures all foster carers are provided with clear guidelines and information about how to monitor, promote and safeguard the health and development of each child/young person being looked after. The agency maintains satisfactory evidence that proved the procedural guidelines are complied with by foster carers.

EVIDENCE:

The agency's foster carers' handbook has a section that explained the key areas and issues that each foster carer must comply with to help ensure the health of children and young people are promoted and monitored. The guide offers advice to carers about what they should do when medical advice and treatment is needed for a foster child or young person. It explained the dangers of passive smoking, measures to control infections, promotion of good sexual health and the need for good standard of hygiene to be practiced in the foster care homes.

There is also a section that advises foster carers how to manage medication in their homes. It emphasised that the social workers or parents of each child/young person must give consent for hospitalisation and any medical treatment that might be necessary.

The handbook also has a section where foster carers are expected to record any medical conditions, services or appointments for each foster child/young person. In addition, the agency has developed a health check form that is used to record all health care matters for each looked after child/young person. The inspector examined these records on children and young people's files and was satisfied that foster carers are complying with the guidelines. There were additional recorded evidence from the supervising social worker's home visits and reviews, including the Looked After Children (LAC) reviews.

In addition, the inspector examined the home visit records completed by the supervising social workers. These showed that the necessary health and immunisation checks have been carried out for each child/young person with update reminders. The agency ensures that each child/young person is registered with a doctor in the locality of the foster care homes, where necessary. The foster carers who communicated with the inspector gave various good practice examples of how they help the children and young people to stay healthy, including ensuring they receive regular medical and dental appointments and examinations.

In addition, at the time of this inspection, 16 children and young people were receiving ongoing health and medical care, including therapeutic support services.

Most of the children and young people who communicated with the inspector reported they are encouraged to eat healthy, take part in regular exercise, look after their personal hygiene and staying safe. Some reported that they ate lots of 'fruits and vegetables' and others spoke of 'having a bath daily and eating healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner.' However, at least one foster carer wanted the agency to offer more guidance and a module in the training programmes on how to cultivate and educate the looked after children and young people to develop healthy eating habits.

There were recorded examples of foster carers seeking the help and advice of the agency about issues that could impact on the health and wellbeing of the children and young people. One example involved a child who was bed-wetting. The action plan involved the carer waking the child periodically through the night so he could use the toilet. Other medical and psychosocial support were also offered to help deal with the problem. Another example related to dental and orthodontist treatment and appointments for another child. The carers also have an emergency telephone number they can call during out of normal office working hours.

In one of the cases examined, the inspector noted there were no health status or updated recordings for a sibling group of two children plus one other child. The welfare forms were also not completed. The service manager explained this shortfall related to unfinished work by a supervising social worker who has since left the agency.

The foster carers confirmed and the inspector saw evidence that appropriate training in health and hygiene matters have been offered to them by the agency.

Staying Safe

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- Any persons carrying on or managing the service are suitable. (NMS 3)
- The fostering service provides suitable foster carers.(NMS 6)
- The service matches children to carers appropriately.(NMS 8)
- The fostering service protects each child or young person from abuse and neglect.(NMS 9)
- The people who work in or for the fostering service are suitable to work with children and young people.(NMS 15)
- Fostering panels are organised efficiently and effectively.(NMS 30)

The Commission considers Standards 3, 6, 8, 9, and 15 the key standards to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

6,8,9,15,30

The agency ensures careful attention is paid to the suitability of the carers it recruits to look after the children and young people. Although careful attention is paid to ensuring the right matching takes place, there was insufficient evidence recorded to explain the reasons the fostering panel approved some matching placements.

Appropriate guidelines, procedures and monitoring systems are in place to help ensure the protection of the children/young people.

EVIDENCE:

The agency recruits potential foster carers through various sources, including direct advertising in various media publication and public outreach work. Its current foster carers represent in most cases- the diversified cultural, ethnic, religious, racial and gender groups of the children and young people being looked after. There were 102 registered foster carers and 86 looked after children and young people assigned to the agency at the time of this inspection. The number of foster carers included 70 females and 32 males.

The agency has recognised that like most fostering agencies, it needs to do more effective outreach work and advertising of its services to recruit more foster carers, particularly ones from the White UK ethnic and cultural population to help meet the needs of children from this group.

The recruitment and approval process of foster carers involved completion of various mandatory applications, including 6 to 8 home visits by the assessing social workers who have the relevant skill, training and experience to carry out the comprehensive personal and home assessments. In addition, the agency carries out various health and reference checks on potential foster carers, their immediate family members, regular visitors to the homes and nominated carers.

The checks include references from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), local authorities and people or employers who know the applicants well to provide informed comments about their suitability to be foster carers.

Each foster carer is expected to meet with the agency's fostering panel to discuss their application and reasons for wanting to foster. The inspector observed a foster panel meeting and was satisfied that the process was managed appropriately. The inspector also reviewed the minutes of previous panel meetings and noted that there was insufficient evidence recorded to explain the reasons for some of the matching consideration and approvals.

The majority of the foster carers who communicated with the inspector reported satisfaction with the information provided by the agency about the backgrounds of the children and young people being placed. One foster carer reported this is not always possible but felt the cultural backgrounds of children and young people are important and should always be communicated to the foster carers. They reportedly had to work this out for themselves when a placement was made by the agency. A foster carer also wanted the agency to pay closer attention to the views of carers and whether they wish to continue with placements made in emergency.

In addition, the information provided by Rainbow indicated that since April 2005, forty placements ended, including 12 that broke down during this period.

The Inspector examined the records of several foster carers, the children and young people in their care, plus the agency's policy and procedural guidelines relating to safe caring. The findings indicated regular monitoring is carried out by the agency as part of its compliance checks. There is also a system in place to alert the agency staff when CRB and other relevant checks are due for renewal. The inspector was satisfied that the reports received from the foster carers plus the recorded evidence examined indicated appropriate safety plans are arranged and put in place to safeguard children and young people during contacts with parents or relatives.

The inspector reviewed three cases of recorded alleged abuse of children/young people being looked after. The outcomes in all three cases indicated there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations. There was also evidence of appropriate measures being followed by the agency

during the investigation process and satisfactory measures and action plans put in place to help minimise a repeat of the allegations. In one case for example, the fostering panel reviewed a foster carers' position to continue as carer.

The agency requires each carer to sign their agreement to maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to the children and young people in their care. The foster carers reported to the inspector their awareness and understanding of this policy and gave examples of how they ensure it is carried out.

The agency employs two qualified staff as supervising social workers. There is also a pool of independent social workers that carry out most of the agency's Form F assessments. In addition, there are three assistant social workers and three students social workers that were on placement at the time of this inspection. One social worker left the agency since the last inspection. The agency has indicated that among the things it could improve on is attracting quality staff and retention of those who are qualified, skilled and have the relevant experience in children social work.

Enjoying and Achieving

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- The fostering service values diversity.(NMS 7)
- The fostering service promotes educational achievement.(NMS 13)
- When foster care is provided as a short-term break for a child, the arrangements recognise that the parents remain the main carers for the child.(NMS 31)

The Commission considers Standards 7, 13, and 31 the key standards to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

7, 13

The agency employs staff from various ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds. This approach is also repeated in its recruitment of foster carers and the children and young people it seeks to place in foster care homes. The agency has made commendable progress to help ensure the educational care needs of the looked after children and young people are met and consistently monitored. There was good evidence of positive educational outcomes for several children and young people.

EVIDENCE:

There is a section in the agency's foster care handbook that outlines its policy and approach to equal opportunity and diversity issues. The inspector was satisfied that the agency was able to demonstrate its commitment to equal opportunity and cultivation of diversity in several areas; including its staff employment, recruitment of foster carers from varied backgrounds and its advice and guidance to foster carers on issues such as HIV/AIDS. The agency has made positive efforts to promote the role of male foster carers plus offer invaluable advice and support on how to deal with allegations made against foster carers.

At the time of this inspection, the agency had two children with disability placed in foster care homes. One child had special education needs plus global delay and functions at much younger age. The assistant director informed the inspector that the matching consideration was done by placing the children with carers of the same race who also had relevant therapeutic skills, time and willingness to provide a stable and nurturing home for the child.

The inspector noted from recorded review notes that both children were making good progress and the foster carers reported full satisfaction with the support and training in communication with disabled children offered by Rainbow.

The agency currently has a few foster carers who have the necessary skills and experience to care for children and young people with disabilities. It has recognised that it needs to make better efforts in recruiting foster carers who have the necessary skills, knowledge, understanding and appropriate home environment to care for this group of looked after children and young people.

In the last inspection, the agency was required to do more work in helping to promote better educational outcomes for the children and young people being looked after. The findings of this inspection showed that the agency has written to each foster carer and reminded them that the educational achievements of every child and young person must be fully supported and promoted. Foster carers are now required by the agency to provide evidence and up to date records of how they are working to help meet the education and learning needs of each looked after child/young person.

The inspector noted that the carers also discussed their observations and input with the supervising social workers when they visit the homes and carry out reviews of the placements. Most of the foster carers who communicated with the inspector gave examples of what they were doing to help the children and young people with their education and learning needs. One foster carer reported that she discovered that her foster child level of literacy was quite poor. "She has support at school and I have helped her with homework when needed. Her numeracy is now much better." Another foster carer stated that her foster child struggles with homework and often requires help to follow instructions and understand what is expected. "I encourage her to do homework and I spend at least one hour each evening helping her." Several children and young people also gave examples of how they have been assisted with their education and learning needs by their foster carers.

In addition, the agency now offers a Saturday Support School at its premises to a number of children and young people. The additional tuition support is offered in English, maths and science and target young people who are preparing for their GCSE examinations. The sessions run for two hours and several of the young person attending reported to the inspector that they have benefited from the additional help.

In addition, the agency confirmed that there were 48 children who had up to date Personal Educational Plans (PEPs) at the time of this inspection. The others were either be reviewed, ongoing or been planned. Since April 2005, thirteen young people who sat the GCSE examinations had good passes.

Making a Positive Contribution

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- The fostering service promotes contact arrangements for the child or young person. (NMS 10)
- The fostering service promotes consultation.(NMS 11)

The Commission considers Standards 10 and 11 the key standards to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

10, 11

The fostering service has appropriate arrangements and support systems in place that help to promote contacts between children/young people and their birth parents, siblings and other relatives. The agency actively seeks the views of its carers, stakeholders and other partners and provides the necessary forum for the consultation process to take place.

EVIDENCE:

In several of the cases examined by the inspector, a number of the children and young people had no contact with their birth parents because of safety and protection concerns. In a few cases, the unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers had no direct contact or relatives in the UK. However, where possible, the agency and foster carers assist these children/young people to re-establish or maintain contact.

The evidence examined and communication made with foster carers indicated that where contacts are safe, the agency helps to facilitate these. The foster carers and some of the children and young people also gave examples of how and where contacts take place, including telephone contacts. The assistant director of the agency informed the inspector that contacts are always planned, supported and carried out in the best interest of the children and young people.

The foster carers' monthly reports also have recorded information about contacts made and any issues or problems developed and how they were managed. The agency has indicated that among the things it could do better and plans to do is provide escorts and supervised contacts.

The feedback received from foster carers is that the agency works closely with them to help cultivate the relationships. The inspector noted there that foster carers support group meetings, inter-professional meetings with agency staff, foster carers and consultation meetings with external professionals takes place regularly. In addition, there were recorded information about meetings held with various social services, local schools, education authorities involving the looked after children and young people.

The inspector also noted that the views of the children and young people are now more actively sought at LAC reviews and during the supervisory social workers home visits. A number of the children/young people also informed the inspector that the agency social work staff have sought their views and opinions about their experiences in the foster care homes, their educational work, social and leisure activities and interests.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- The fostering service prepares young people for adulthood.(NMS 14)
- The fostering service pays carers an allowance and agreed expenses as specified.(NMS 29)

The Commission considers Standards 29 the key standard to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

14,29

The foster service and carers work well with the young people in care to prepare them for moving on to independent and semi-independent living. The agency provides appropriate contractual arrangements and makes timely payments to its foster carers.

EVIDENCE:

The inspector asked for their views of the young people being looked after about what types of independent living skill they were learning in the foster care homes. The answers were varied and included examples such as learning a range of domestic skills, budgeting, self-care development skills, educational development plus acquisition of knowledge and understanding of what the transition from dependency to semi-independent and independent living involved.

A number of foster carers also gave examples of how they are working with young people to help them prepare for adult and independent living. The assistant director of the agency informed the inspector about the agency's role in helping to prepare young people for independent living. The help involved ensuring a weekly savings from each young person's allowance is saved towards their placement endings. This money is then given to each of the children or young people when they move on from a placement.

In addition, the agency's supervising social workers monitor and offer advice to the young people and foster carers on how best to help ensure the move to semi-or independent living is managed in the best interests of the young people. The agency also provides training to the foster carers and staff on how best to work with the young people during the leaving care transition. This also

involved ensuring that the foster parents help the children and young people to record and complete their life story work. The supervising social workers also confirmed they contributed to this objective by offering advice plus monitoring progress and compliance in this and other areas. In addition, the recorded evidence of LAC reviews showed that the issue of preparation for adulthood has been discussed with the young people concerned.

The inspection findings showed evidence that the agency pays all relevant allowances to the foster carers on time. The agency has clear guidelines in the foster carers' handbook about its allowance and fee payment structure. The foster carers who communicated with the inspector reported satisfaction with the agency's management of its financial obligation to them.

Management

The intended outcomes these Standards are:

- There is a clear statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service and the fostering service ensures that they meet those aims and objectives.(NMS 1)
- The fostering service is managed by those with the appropriate skills and experience. (NMS 2)
- The fostering service is monitored and controlled as specified. (NMS 4)
- The fostering service is managed effectively and efficiently.(NMS 5)
- Staff are organised and managed effectively.(NMS 16)
- The fostering service has an adequate number of sufficiently experienced and qualified staff.(NMS 17)
- The fostering service is a fair and competent employer.(NMS 18)
- There is a good quality training programme. (NMS 19)
- All staff are properly accountable and supported.(NMS 20)
- The fostering service has a clear strategy for working with and supporting carers.(NMS 21)
- Foster carers are provided with supervision and support.(NMS 22)
- Foster carers are appropriately trained.(NMS 23)
- Case records for children are comprehensive.(NMS 24)
- The administrative records are maintained as required.(NMS 25)
- The premises used as offices by the fostering service are suitable for the purpose.(NMS 26)
- The fostering service is financially viable. (NMS 27)
- The fostering service has robust financial processes. (NMS 28)
- Local Authority fostering services recognise the contribution made by family and friends as carers.(NMS 32)

The Commission considers Standards 17, 21, and 24 the key standards to be inspected at least once during a 12 month period.

JUDGEMENT – The intended outcomes for these Standards are

2, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24

The fostering service is managed well with clear lines of accountability and a culture of cooperative working that benefits the children, young people and foster carers. The agency now has more staff to support its work with carers but more work is still needed to ensure staff that are employed have the necessary and required qualifications, skills and experience to work with children and families. The agency also offers good support and training to its foster carers.

EVIDENCE:

The agency is managed professionally and in line with regulatory requirements and its aims and objectives. The inspector was satisfied that the manager and directors of the service have demonstrated a willingness to work cooperatively with the CSCI and other stakeholders. Good effort has been made to comply with requirements from inspection findings and shortfalls identified. The directors and manager have demonstrated a range of creative and innovative approaches such as the Saturday school and Rainbow Plus programmes. These and other initiatives are helping to offer better outcomes to the looked after children/young people.

The directors and manager have relevant training, qualifications, experience and skills to perform their respective roles and responsibilities. The assistant director has undertaken additional training to help enhance her skills and knowledge. The service manager has been relocated from the agency's former branch agency in East London. He is now able to offer more direct managerial support and supervision to the staff and foster carers.

The agency now has more staff since the last inspection. This has enabled it to offer more support and monitoring of the foster placements and also to the children and young people. The general view of majority of the foster carers is that they are well supported and feel valued by the agency's staff. All the foster carers reported they benefit from the range of skills training and development support offered by the agency. The agency also provides an emergency telephone contact that carers are able to use out of normal working hours.

The view was expressed by at least two foster carers that they would like the agency to offer more guidance and additional training module on how they should work to build appropriate and beneficial relationships and links with the birth parents of the looked after children.

The inspector acknowledged the agency's plan to offer on the job training and access to formal training to the assistant social workers. However, the findings indicated that although the agency has increased its social work staffing, more work is still needed to help ensure the staff employed have the required social work training, skills and experience to offer the right level of professional supervisory support to the foster carers, the looked after children and young people. This minor shortfall has therefore pushed the agency's grading in this

area to a 2. It is expected that before or by the next inspection, this outstanding requirement will be fully met.

The inspector also noted that majority of the case files recordings and administration- except two files for a sibling group- were appropriately maintained.

SCORING OF OUTCOMES

This page summarises the assessment of the extent to which the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services have been met and uses the following scale.

4 Standard Exceeded (Commendable) **3** Standard Met (No Shortfalls)
2 Standard Almost Met (Minor Shortfalls) **1** Standard Not Met (Major Shortfalls)

"X" in the standard met box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion

"N/A" in the standard met box denotes standard not applicable

BEING HEALTHY	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
12	4

STAYING SAFE	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
3	x
6	3
8	3
9	3
15	4
30	3

ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
7	4
13	4
31	x

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
10	3
11	4

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
14	3
29	4

MANAGEMENT	
<i>Standard No</i>	<i>Score</i>
1	x
2	4
4	x
5	x
16	x
17	2
18	x
19	x
20	x
21	4
22	4
23	4
24	3
25	x
26	x
27	x
28	x
32	N/A

Are there any outstanding requirements from the last inspection?

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Fostering Services Regulations 2002 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

No.	Standard	Regulation	Requirement	Timescale for action
1	FS17	20	The registered provider must ensure that effort is continued to recruit staff that have the relevant training, experience and skills to work with children, young people and foster carers.	30/06/06

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations relate to National Minimum Standards and are seen as good practice for the Registered Provider/s to consider carrying out.

No.	Refer to Standard	Good Practice Recommendations
1	30 & 8	The registered provider should ensure that adequate summary explanation is recorded to help explain the reasons for the panel's decisions, particularly where matching considerations are concerned.
2	19	The agency should consider offering a training module in to foster carers about the legal processes involved in fostering. The provider should also consider including an explanatory guide about the legal processes in its foster care handbook when it is next reviewed.
3	10,11	The agency should consider offering further guidance to foster carers on how they should aim to develop and cultivate appropriate relationships and consultation with

		the birth parents of the looked after children and young people.
4	25	The agency should ensure that the relevant persons sign relevant documentation such as panel minutes/decisions.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

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