

Nominations to the FOSTAD Scheme

Related documents and guidance

[Newham Tenancy Strategy](#)

[Localism Act 2011](#)

[From a Distance – Ofsted Survey Report - Published 2014](#)

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1. What is the FOSTAD Scheme?

The FOSTAD Scheme was created to enable the Fostering and Adoption Service to nominate foster carers or adopters to the Council's housing register. At the beginning of the financial year, the Housing Service will confirm how many units will be allocated to the FOSTAD Scheme. The units are 2 bedrooms or 3 bedrooms and since April 2015, one 4 bedroom unit has also been allocated.

This scheme increases the number of placements foster carers can take and results in less reliance on external placements therefore creating financial savings.

2. Who qualifies for the FOSTAD Scheme?

Carers who are nominated to the scheme will have been in their fostering role for at least 12 months and have completed their Training, Support & Development standards.

Carers are only considered and nominated to the FOSTAD Scheme if they can

- provide permanency for the child via adoption, or
- provide permanency for the child via long term fostering, or
- provide an additional placement for a young person aged 11+

3. Retention of foster carers

Foster carers taking up the offer of re-housing in order to foster additional children or older children, are more likely to remain living in Newham and continue to foster for Newham Fostering Service.

There is evidence that children living far from home tend to have poorer outcomes because they do not have access to local services. Children placed in Newham often benefit from pre-existing close collaboration between agencies, or from continuing services from Newham.

Children placed locally are more likely to attend local schools and colleges, remain living in Newham as adults and make a positive contribution to the city by becoming part of Newham's future workforce.

4. The process of applying to the FOSTAD Scheme.

The Fostering and Adoption Service work closely with their carers and will identify those that are suitable to either take an additional child/young person or who can offer permanency to a child via long term fostering or adoption.

After discussion with their carer, the social worker will determine if nominated to the scheme to enable them to move to a larger property, their carer will be

- i. able to offer permanency for the child via long term fostering
- ii. the most suitable person to adopt the child
- iii. able to take a child aged 11+.

The social worker will take this information to the Fostering Team Manager for their approval. After approval has been given, the social worker will liaise with the Recruitment & Development Manager who co-ordinates the scheme for Placement Services.

Nominated foster carers will be required to complete the Special Schemes Registration Form. Once completed the Special Schemes Registration form along with details of the carer's requirements will be sent to the Lettings Team Manager. The Recruitment & Development Manager will be notified when a suitable property has been identified for the carer and viewing will subsequently take place.

5. Types of tenancy

If a foster carer is nominated to the FOSTAD scheme and an offer is agreed the offer made could be a council tenancy or a housing association tenancy.

If the offer is a council tenancy, and the carer is transferring from another council property where they hold a life time secure tenancy, or from a Housing Association property where they hold an assured tenancy, a further 'life time' secure tenancy will be offered. If the offer is a council tenancy and the carer is moving from the private sector, they will be offered a five year fixed term tenancy, in line with the Council's tenancy housing strategy. The first year of this five year term will be an introductory tenancy.

The tenancy will be reviewed before the end of the five years and, if the tenant has ceased to be a foster carer, this is one of the grounds on which a further tenancy will NOT be offered. In this event the tenant should expect no further tenancy will be offered and they will be expected to find alternative accommodation. Full details of the grounds on which a further tenancy will NOT be offered can be found in the tenancy strategy, published on the Council's website.

If the young person in placement is about to reach the age of 18 and is requesting to remain living with their foster carer under a Staying Put arrangement and the carer is in agreement with this request, the foster carer will continue to qualify for social housing and can remain in their home. The foster carer will only be asked to vacate their home within the five year fixed term tenancy period, if the Staying Put arrangement ceases before the end of the five year period.

Each Housing Association will have its own Tenancy Strategy, detailing the length of the tenancy and the grounds on which a further tenancy will not be offered. Applicants made an offer under this scheme are advised to read the strategy and be aware of the grounds on which a further tenancy will not be made, so that they are fully aware of the terms of accepting a home under the FOSTAD scheme.

6. Discretionary housing payments

Foster carers who use more than one bedroom for the purpose of fostering, can apply for Discretionary Housing Payments to cover the shortfall in housing benefit they are required to pay because of the second or more bedrooms they use for fostering purposes.
