

Acronyms and abbreviations

You will find more information about many of these terms in the Foster Carer Handbook:

<https://www.i-space.org.uk/policies-guidance-and-handbooks/>

AC	Accredited Carers (see also FFMRC) Carers who are approved to care for a specific fostering family's children when they take respite.
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder A health condition characterised by difficulty paying attention.
ADHD	Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder A health condition characterised by difficulty paying attention, plus hyperactivity and impulsiveness.
ADM	Agency Decision Maker (see also DM) Social worker who has ultimate responsibility for making decisions about the approval of foster carers.
AEN	Additional Educational Needs An umbrella term in schools to describe children who need additional help or adaptations at school.
AHR	Annual Home Review (see also FCR) An annual review of fostering approval.
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder The medical name for autism
ASW	Assessing Social Worker (see also ISW) The social worker who completes Form F assessments and annual reviews of approval on behalf of the agency. They may be an employee of the agency, or an independent social worker (ISW).

ASYE Assessed and Supported Year in Employment

For newly qualified social workers to help them develop their skills, knowledge and capability and strengthen their professional confidence.

BAAF British Association for Adoption and Fostering

Now known as Coram BAAF. An independent membership organisation for those who work within, or have been affected by fostering and adoption

CAF Common Assessment Framework

The process of assessing and supporting the needs of a family and the children within the community, without social care input.

CAFCASS Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

An independent body that represents children in family court cases in England, making sure that their voices are heard and decisions are taken in their best interests.

CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

An NHS service that treats children and young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties

CBT Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

A talking therapy for emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties

CIC Children in Care (see also LAC, CLA)

An umbrella term for children who are in the care of social services, including foster care

CIN Children in Need

Children who need local authority services to support their health/development or prevent significant harm.

CLA Children Looked After (see also LAC, CIC)

An umbrella term for children who are in the care of social services, including foster care

CM Centre Manager

The manager who is responsible for an ISP office. This will usually be the Registered Manager (RM), but some of our RMs are assisted by a Centre Manager.

CO Care Order (see also S31)

A judgement by the family court that a child or young person be under the care of social services until they reach 18 years of age.

CP Child Protection

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

CSA Child Sexual Abuse

See Working Together to Safeguard Children for definitions (link at bottom of document)

CSC Children's Social Care

Local authority services to support children with special needs, protect children from harm, and provide accommodation for children in care.

CSE Child Sexual Exploitation

See Working Together to Safeguard Children for definitions (link at bottom of document)

CYPMHS Children and Young People Mental Health Service

A term for all services that work with children and young people who have difficulties with their mental health or wellbeing.

DBS	<p>Disclosure and Barring Service</p> <p>Allows employers to check whether applicants have criminal convictions, or are barred from working with children or vulnerable adults.</p>
DfE	<p>Department for Education</p> <p>The government department responsible for children's services and education.</p>
DLA	<p>Disability Living Allowance (see also PIP)</p> <p>Financial support for families who have a child with a disability.</p>
DM	<p>Decision Maker (see also ADM)</p> <p>Social worker who has ultimate responsibility for making decisions about the approval of foster carers.</p>
DSL	<p>Designated Safeguarding Lead</p> <p>Every organisation that works with children needs to have someone that takes the lead on safeguarding and child protection. They may be known by other similar titles.</p>
DT	<p>Designated Teacher</p> <p>Every school must appoint a teacher to promote the educational achievement of looked after children at the school.</p>
Ed Psych	<p>Educational Psychologist</p> <p>A chartered psychologist who works within local authorities, in partnership with families and other professionals, to help children and young people achieve their full potential.</p>
EHCP	<p>Education, Health and Care Plan</p> <p>A single plan, which covers the education, health and social care needs of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND).</p>

EPO Emergency Protection Order

Taken in order to safeguard a child. This is a court order that lasts for up to 8 days but the court can extend to a maximum of 15 days. (see S44)

FA Fostering Advisor

All of our ISP registrations have at least one fostering advisor, who work alongside the supervising social workers to support fostering families. They often have fostering experience themselves.

FCF Foster Carer Forum

An opportunity for ISP foster carers to discuss things that matter to them with ISP senior managers. Meetings take place periodically throughout the year, and every registration has a foster carer representative at the forum.

FCO Full Care Order (see S31)

A court order that restricts a parent's legal responsibility for a child. It lasts until they are 18, unless ended by the court before then.

FCR Foster Carer Review (see also AHR)

The annual review of a foster carer's approval.

FFMRC Friends and Family Member Respite Carers (see accredited carers)

Carers who are approved to care for a specific fostering family's children when they take respite.

FGM Female Genital Mutilation

A procedure that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK.

FSW Fostering Social Worker

Social workers within ISP who are involved in the assessment of new foster carers, annual fostering reviews and Fostering Panel procedures.

ICO Interim Care Order (see S38)

An order of the court that grants the local authority Parental Responsibility. This order can be made at the first hearing after care proceedings have been issued.

IHA Initial Health Assessment

A statutory health assessment completed within 28 days of a child or young person first coming into care. It is conducted by a paediatrician or appropriately trained medical practitioner. It will identify any health needs that must be met.

IRM Independent Reviewing Mechanism

A review process for foster carers who do not agree with the Agency Decision Maker's 'qualifying determination'. A foster carer might apply to have their case reviewed if a decision has been made to terminate their approval or change the terms of their approval without their agreement.

IRO Independent Reviewing Officer

Appointed by local authorities to oversee and scrutinise the Care Plan to ensure that it serves the child's best interests. The IRO chairs the reviews of the Care Plan.

ISP Integrated Services Programme

We are an agency that integrates a number of different services for children, including fostering, education, social work and therapy.

ISW Independent Social Worker (see also ASW)

A social worker that the agency might commission to complete Form F assessments and annual reviews of approval on behalf of the agency.

JEM Joint Evaluation Meeting

Part of the local authority process of investigating allegations of harm/criminal offences against children by foster carers/employees or volunteers who work with children.

KS(1-5) Key Stages at school

Stages of the National Curriculum

LA	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>The child or young person's placing Authority/Trust (the council responsible for their care).</p>
LAC	<p>Looked After Child (see also CIC, CLA)</p> <p>A child who has been taken into care (including foster care).</p>
LAC nurse	<p>Looked After Children's Nurse</p> <p>A nurse who provides specialist advice and support to children in care. They may conduct annual health assessments.</p>
LADO	<p>Local Authority Designated Officer</p> <p>Involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people who work with children.</p>
LASW	<p>Local Authority Social Worker</p> <p>The child/young person's allocated social worker.</p>
LSCB	<p>Local Safeguarding Children Board (see also MASH)</p> <p>The first point of contact for local safeguarding concerns, responsible for investigating allegations of harm.</p> <p>This is an old term, replaced by Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnerships.</p>
MAP	<p>Multi-Disciplinary Admissions Panel</p> <p>An ISP meeting where representatives from our different services come together to discuss children newly-placed, or those for whom there are concerns. Representatives share their expertise to assist planning and ensure that the child's needs are being met.</p>
MASH	<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub</p> <p>Another term for Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnerships (see LSCB)</p>

Multi-Agency Specialist Hub (in Kent)

Local centres to support disabled children and their families.

MGM/MGF Maternal Grandmother/Maternal Grandfather

NEET Not in Education, Employment or Training

A term used to describe young people aged 16+ and care leavers who are not in education/training/employment. Sometimes used to judge whether children's services are meeting the needs of young people.

NMS National Minimum Standards

Standards that fostering services are expected to meet. Used by Ofsted to judge the quality of fostering services.

NQSW Newly Qualified Social Worker (see also ASYE)

A term to describe a social worker in their first year of employment.

OFSTED Office for Standards in Education (our inspectors)

P&C Parent and Child

A type of fostering placement that usually includes a new parent and their baby.

PA Personal Advisor

A term used within the 'leaving care' process. The PA will be appointed when the young person is 16+ and they are the young person's main point of contact and support when they leave care post-18.

PDP Personal Development Plan

All foster carers will have a PDP that outlines their ongoing skills development and training needs.

PEP	<p>Personal Education Plan</p> <p>Part of the child's Care Plan that considers the young person's education needs and how adults around them will support them to achieve.</p>
PGM/PGF	<p>Parental Grandmother/Parental Grandfather</p>
PIP	<p>Personal Independence Payments (see also DLA)</p> <p>Financial support for adults and young people aged 16+ who have a disability.</p>
PPM	<p>Placement Planning Meeting</p> <p>A meeting at the start of a placement to discuss background issues, day to day care, medical issues and safer caring.</p>
PPO	<p>Police Protection</p> <p>Taken by the police to safeguard a child at immediate risk of harm. They last 72 hours (see also S46). Often called a 'Police Protection Order' but this is not an order of the court.</p>
PPP or PP+	<p>Pupil Premium Plus</p> <p>Addition funding for schools to help children with additional needs, including children in care</p>
QD	<p>Qualifying Determination</p> <p>This is a proposed decision made by the agency to either change a foster carer's terms of approval or terminate their approval. There is an appeal process alongside for foster carers to use if they don't agree (see IRM)</p>
Regs	<p>Regulations</p> <p>Legal requirements of fostering agencies.</p>
RM	<p>Registered Manager</p> <p>All our ISP offices are registered with Ofsted and led by a Registered Manager.</p>

S20	<p>Section 20 order (Children Act 1989 - often known as ‘accommodated’)</p> <p>This is where the local authority looks after the child either because there is nobody with parental responsibility for the child, or because the parent agrees to the arrangement.</p>
S31	<p>Section 31 order (Children Act 1989 – known as a care order – see FCO)</p> <p>A court order that restricts a parent’s legal responsibility for a child. It lasts until they are 18, unless ended by the court before then.</p>
S38	<p>Section 38 order (Children Act 1989 – known as an interim care order – see ICO)</p> <p>An order of the court that grants the local authority Parental Responsibility. This order can be made at the first hearing after care proceedings have been issued.</p>
S44	<p>Section 44 order (Children Act 1989 – known as an Emergency Protection Order – see EPO)</p> <p>Taken in order to safeguard a child. This is a court order that lasts for up to 8 days but the court can extend to a maximum of 15 days.</p>
S46	<p>Section 46 order (Children Act 1989 – known as Police Protection – see PPO)</p> <p>Taken by the police to safeguard a child at immediate risk of harm. They last 72 hours.</p>
S47	<p>Section 47 enquiry (Children Act 1989 - child protection enquiry/assessment)</p> <p>A child protection enquiry/assessment, carried out by Children’s Social Care (CSC) in response to an allegation or concerns that a child has suffered, is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.</p>
SALT	<p>Speech and Language Therapist (or Therapy)</p> <p>Work with children who have speech, language and communication needs (see SLCN).</p>
SATs	<p>Standard Assessment Tests</p> <p>School tests at 7 and 11 years (end of KS1 and KS2)</p>

SDQ	<p>Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire</p> <p>A brief behavioural screening questionnaire about children and young people up to 16 years. Used as a measure of emotional wellbeing.</p>
SEMHN	<p>Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs</p> <p>A term used in education for children who have severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviour. It is a type of special educational need.</p>
SEN/SEND	<p>Special Educational Needs/Special Education Needs and Disabilities</p> <p>A legal term that refers to children with learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children the same age.</p>
SENCo	<p>Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator</p> <p>The teacher who coordinates the provision for children with special educational needs or disabilities in school. Every school must have one.</p>
SGO	<p>Special Guardianship Order</p> <p>A formal court order that gives parental responsibility to the guardian. If a foster carer applies for this then the child will no longer be the responsibility of the local authority, but the birth parents retain shared parental responsibility. The order lasts until the child is 18.</p>
SLCN	<p>Speech, Language and Communication Needs</p> <p>An umbrella term used in education for children who have difficulty in one or more aspect of these skills.</p>
SM	<p>Senior Manager</p> <p>A member of the Agency's senior leadership team. They may be responsible for one specific area of the agency's service, or have overall responsibility.</p>

SPRF Service Provider Response Form

A document that the Agency is required to complete when a local authority is planning a placement to explain how we can meet the child's needs.

SSW Supervising Social Worker

Every foster carer must have a named supervising social worker whose job is to support and guide the foster carer and ensure that the child's needs are being met.

SoC Standards of Care (see NMS)

Foster carers are assessed against the National Minimum Standards that foster carers are expected to meet (the child focused standards). If there are concerns about a foster carer's practice, this may lead to a Standards of Care investigation.

TA Teaching Assistant

TSD/TSDS Training Support and Development standards

A national minimum benchmark of what foster carers should know, understand and be able to do within the first 12 months of approval. They are designed to ensure that carers receive the necessary induction, training and support for fostering.

UASC Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

UASM Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Minors

These are both terms used to describe children who come to the UK without adult family members to seek asylum. They are accommodated into local authority care.

YOT Youth Offending Team

A local council team that works with young people who get into trouble with the law. They are not part of the police or courts system.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf