Unit 4222-620 Understand the context of supporting children and young people through foster care

Level: **3**
Credit value: **5**
UAN: **T/503/5878**

Unit aim
The unit is designed to enable the learner to understand the context of supporting children and young people through foster care

Learning outcomes
There are **six** learning outcomes to this unit. The learner will:

1. Understand the circumstances that can lead to children and young people accessing foster care
2. Know the information that should be provided to foster carers prior to placements being arranged
3. Understand how legislation, policies and procedures relate to foster care
4. Understand how foster care can make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in care
5. Understand the importance of relationships for children and young people accessing foster care
6. Understand the roles and responsibilities of a foster carer when working with birth families, carers and professionals

Guided learning hours
It is recommended that 45 hours should be allocated for this unit.

Details of the relationship between the unit and relevant national standards
This unit is linked to HSC 317

Support of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body
This unit is endorsed by Skills for Care and Development.

Assessment
This unit must be assessed in accordance with the Skills for Care and Development Assessment Principles.

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Assessment Criteria

Outcome 1 Understand the circumstances that can lead to children and young people accessing foster care

The learner can:

1. Explain the circumstances that can lead to children and young people accessing foster care
2. Explain the changes that a child or young person accessing foster care may experience.
3. Explain the effects that **changes** may have on the child or young person and **others.**

Outcome 2 Know the information that should be provided to foster carers prior to placements being arranged

The learner can:

1. Explain what information should be provided to assist in the provision of a safe and secure environment for children and young people accessing foster care
2. Explain steps that should be taken if sufficient information has not been received for a child or young person accessing foster care.

Outcome 3 Understand how legislation, policies and procedures relate to foster care

The learner can:

1. Evaluate how current **legislative frameworks** in own home nation and organisational policies and procedures underpin the way that children and young people are looked after in foster care.
2. Explain the importance of foster carers adhering to service policies and procedures.
3. Explain how **delegated responsibility** impacts upon the role of foster carers.

Outcome 4 Understand how foster care can make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in care

The learner can:

1. Explain the importance of stability in the care offered to children and young people accessing foster care.
2. Evaluate the role of foster carers in providing children and young people with a safe, secure and stable environment.

Outcome 5 Understand the importance of relationships for children and young people accessing foster care

The learner can:

1. Explain the importance for children and young people accessing foster care, of maintaining relationships with their wider family and **informal networks.**
2. Explain how the maintenance of relationships with wider family and informal networks can have a positive or negative impact on their self image or identity.
3. Explain circumstances where children and young people are not able to maintain relationships with wider family members and informal networks.
4. Analyse the impact of separation and loss on children and young people accessing foster care
5. Explain how children and young people can be supported to explore feelings in relation to contact and relationships with wider family members.
6. Explain why it is important for foster carers to have positive regard for a child or young people's **background.**

Outcome 6 Understand the roles and responsibilities of a foster carer when working with birth families, carers and professionals

The learner can:

1. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the foster carer as part of the fostering service.
2. Explain the importance of foster carers developing and maintaining good relationships with birth families, carers and professionals.
3. Summarise circumstances that may impact on foster carers developing and maintaining relationships with birth families, carers and professionals.

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Additional guidance

Legislative frameworks – should include the UN Convention for the Right of the Child and Young Person.

Delegated responsibility – decision making about children in placement, devolved to the foster carer by the local authority / those holding parental responsibility

Others could include:

- Foster Carers
- Family
- Friends
- Professionals

Positive or negative **changes** could include:

- Transitions
- Family breakdown
- One or multiple placement breakdown
- Health and mental health
- Criminal justice
- Adoption by foster carer
- Family contact
- Education
- Different physical environments, communities and cultures

Background could include:

- Family relationships
- Informal networks
- Culture
- History
- Preferences
- Beliefs
- Community

Informal networks could include:

- Family
- Siblings
- Friends
- Neighbours
- Special interest groups
- Social groups