# This document is for foster carers, short break carers and family, friends or connected person carers and supported lodgings carers.

Please note that this document has been designed for the fostering household and include h individual requirements for each carer.

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| Carer 1 - Name  |  |
| Carer 2 - Name  |  |
| SSW - Name  |  |
| Date plan completed |  |

The personal development plan (PDP) should be completed annually by the foster carer/s with support from their supervising social worker.

The PDP forms an important part of the foster carer/s’ annual Fostering Household Review and, in compliance with Sec 20 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards, must evidence the minimum training and development required by Essex to maintain ongoing registration. These expectations are set out in the attached training programme and guidance.

If fostering as a couple, evidence of training and development is vital for both foster carers in the household.

The Personal Development Plan includes discussions about the foster carer/s’ learning needs for the next year and a plan for how these identified needs can be met by Essex’s training programme or other developmental opportunities. It will also identify if there are needs highlighted that cannot be met by the current training programme.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**: Due to the coronavirus we will deliver courses face to face only when it is safe to do so. We have adapted many of our training courses to suit virtual learning. Not all courses are suitable for a virtual platform, and those that are not are currently suspended. We have created a series of videos uploaded on our ‘psychologists’ corner’ which can be accessed through our resource hub[foster carers' resource hub](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk%2Ffostering%2Fare-you-a-foster-carer%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cead31ddca00c4ab3896f08d869dde2d5%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637375749031866085&sdata=J2SBZIrnTXGTvPahpAbeX8B6wBsHokHnzBx87G36eWY%3D&reserved=0) **.** These videos have been specifically designed for learning and support during the coronavirus pandemic.

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| **Carer 1** |
| Reflecting on your experiences of fostering in the past year and discussions with your SSW, what areas of further professional development are needed to support you to provide effective care for children? What training, learning and development do you think will best meet your needs in the next 12 months? |
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| **SSW** |
| Please comment on the foster carer’s reflection |
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| **Carer 2**  |
| Reflecting on your experiences of fostering in the past year and discussions with your SSW, what areas of further professional development are needed to support you to provide effective care for children? What training, learning and development do you think will best meet your needs in the next 12 months? |
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| SSW: |
| Please comment on the foster carer’s reflection. |
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| Learning events / activity planned for 2021/22 |
| Name of Carer | Learning Activity | Date of application or action required |
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| Please detail any learning needs that you feel cannot be met through these learning events. This will help us identify gaps in our training programme. |
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| SSW:  |
| Please comment on the gap that the foster carer/s have identified |
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