

FOI 2845

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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For foster care policies please interpret this as any policy, protocol, or standard operating procedure which directly impacts the service foster carers provide, receive or use.

For foster carer please interpret this as including kinship and non-kinship carer.

For foster carer forum please interpret this as any standing forum or committee which discusses matters related to fostering service provision which has foster carers as members.

### **1a. Does the Trust have a foster carer forum which meets regularly?**

**Response:**

No

### **1b. Was this foster carer forum operational in 2023?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

### **1c. Was this foster carer forum operational in 2024?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

### **2. Please provide a copy of the Terms of Reference for any operational foster carer forum?**

**Response:**

There is no foster care forum and no Terms of Reference.

### **3. Please provide copies of the minutes or meeting notes of the foster carer forum for the years 2023 and 2024.**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

**4. Please provide the number of foster carers involved in the foster carer forum? (Please provide a breakdown by kinship/ non-kinship carers)?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

**5a. Please provide a list of foster care policies developed or reviewed in 2023?**

**Response:**

All Policies and Procedures are developed and reviewed on a regional basis led by the Department of Health and/or Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG). The Trust will participate in any relevant group tasked with reviewing or developing specific policies or procedures.

**5b. Please indicate if the foster carers forum was involved in the co-production of these policies?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

**6a. Please provide a list of foster care policies developed or reviewed in 2024?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 5A.

**6b. Please indicate if the foster carers forum was involved in the co-production of these policies?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

The Department of Health agree a consultation process for engagement with carers in relation to any proposals in respect to newly developed or reviewed policies and procedures.

**7a. Please provide a list of foster care policies currently being developed, reviewed or updated by the Trust?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 5A.

**7b. Please indicate if the foster carers forum was involved in the co-production of these policies?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

**7c. Please include the expected date of completion of the policy development or update?**

**Response:**

This information should be sought from the Department of Health.

**8a. Has the Trust undertaken any reorganisation, restructuring or reconfiguration of its fostering services in 2023 or 2024?**

**Response:**

No, the Southern Trust has not configured its fostering services in 2023/24

**8b. Where foster carers consulted concerning these changes?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 8A

**8c. Please provide a copy of the consultation report?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 8A

**9a. Please provide a list of regional foster care policies (including strategies, frameworks, schemes, standards, and regulations) on which the foster carer forum has been consulted in the years 2023 and 2024?**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

**9b. Please provide copies of any response or report submitted by the Foster Carer Forum or Trust foster carers on each of the regional policies.**

**Response:**

Please refer to response 1A

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