

Pre Inspection Audits

What is a Pre Inspection Audit?

A Pre Inspection Audit is carried out by an external person who considers the different aspects of your organisation in line with the legislative requirements under the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Fostering Services.

Why is it important to have an audit?

There are many reasons you might wish to have an audit and all fostering agencies find they benefit from having the objective viewpoint of someone from outside the organisation. Crucially, now is the time to consider your organisation in line with the changes in the new 2011 NMS for Fostering Services.

You may be a relatively new organisation, be in the process of growth or you could be well established but want to check that things are still working as they should be. There can be pressure on you to maintain a 'good' or 'outstanding' quality rating, and for those who haven't yet reached this there can be an expectation that now may be the time! All agencies, whatever size or stage they're at, need to demonstrate the best possible quality of care and service otherwise placement referrals may not be forthcoming. Without referrals organisations may find that the 'bottom line' is squeezed, instead of seeing an increase in growth and performance.

An external objective audit:

- Provides you with a head start in establishing the areas you may need to work on
- Fulfils a quality assurance role by identifying good practice in your organisation
- Increases the 'bottom line' - as your quality increases so you can become a foster agency of choice for commissioners
- Meets the NMS need to monitor the quality of your records
- Considers your organisation in line with the new 2011 NMS

What does a Pre Inspection Audit cover?

There are two options for you to choose from which will guide you in areas that may need your attention.

Option 1 is a 'mini' audit which will give you a snapshot of how you are doing in relation to the quality of care you provide for children placed, consider the recruitment and retention of foster carers and review some of the key areas within the organisation. This option is designed for the smaller or fairly new agency.

Option 2 is a comprehensive audit that will give you a much fuller picture of how you are doing in relation to the majority of the National Minimum Standards and is designed for the larger fostering agency.