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Chief Executive HSC Board
Chief Executives HSC Trusts
Director of Social Care and Children – HSC Board
Directors of Children's Services HSC Trusts

Dear Colleague

GUIDANCE ON DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO FOSTER CARERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Please find attached Guidance on Delegated Authority to Foster Carers in Northern Ireland which takes immediate effect.

This guidance is a consequence of series of consultations and input from across a wide spectrum including Social Workers, Foster Carers, Looked After Children, Voluntary Organisations, Department of Education, BAAF, NCH, and QUB. Children's Law Centre, Fostering Network's NI Advisory Committee and the Judiciary. The process has always demonstrated general agreement to delegating greater decision making to foster carers.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that the guidance is cascaded down through your organisation to all staff involved in Fostering and with Looked After Children. For those Trusts who would like to avail of awareness sessions on the Delegation of Authority to assist in the implementation of the guidance please contact Phyllis Elwood , Fostering Network, Tel: 028 90 705056 or <mailto:phyllis.elwood@fostering.net>

It is the Department's intention to review the implementation of the guidance at a later date, so if any issues or difficulties arise as a consequence of its operation we would be grateful for

feedback. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed to and provided feedback during the drafting process.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Mullan

Gerry Mullan
Child Care Policy Directorate