

Policy on alcohol

Policy statement

Children's Services will ensure that foster carers are appropriate role models for looked after children in relation to drinking alcohol.

Policy status

Children Act 1989

Care Standards Act 2000

Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003

Key points

1. Young people will be discouraged from drinking alcohol.
2. They should be given information regarding the influence and harmful effects that can arise from consuming alcohol.
3. Carers will not supply alcohol to a looked after child unless with agreement from parents and social worker. It should not be possible for children to gain easy access to alcohol in the carer's home.
4. Carers will not be drunk whilst in care of any child. Where this happens [termination of registration](#) will be likely. If carers are drinking then one carer should remain sober unless other arrangements have been made to look after the children.
5. Where a young person or carer has a known alcohol problem, management will encourage and support that person by directing him/her to an appropriate source of help. A decision will be made as to whether it is appropriate for the carer to continue fostering during this time.
6. Carers should not turn up to any meetings, appointments, contact or at the child's nursery or school in a drunken state or smelling strongly of alcohol.
7. The quantity of alcohol consumed by carers should be within Government guidelines i.e. attitudes to drink are equally as important as quantity, so binge drinking will not be acceptable.