



**MY
FOSTER
CARER.co.uk**



This Statement of Purpose relates to:

My Foster Carer Ltd

180 Silver Lonnen

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE5 2HE

Website: www.myfostercarer.co.uk

Statement of Purpose

This Statement of Purpose has been written in accordance with the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and Regulations 3 (1) of the Fostering Regulations 2011. It sets out the Statement of Purpose for My Foster Carer Ltd and relates to the company's operations as an Independent Fostering Provider.

The My Foster Carer Ltd Statement of Purpose is designed for a wide readership including:

- Children and young people who are placed with our foster carers
- The company's staff
- Foster carers and prospective foster carers
- Local Authorities who place, or are considering placing with My Foster Carer Ltd
- Colleagues from other social care agencies
- Health and educational establishments
- The General Public

The My Foster Carer Ltd Statement of Purpose aims to meet, and where possible, exceed the requirements arising from:

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011

This Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated annually by the Directors, and more frequently as necessary by the Responsible Individual and Registered Manager.

Introduction

My Foster Carer Ltd is a new independent foster agency based in Newcastle. It has been established by Julia Robertson – who has over 35 years experience working with the health and social care sector, and Michael Miller who has successfully managed multiple business' and most recently worked in the third sector helping raise over £50m for charity.

At My Foster Carer our primary aim is to provide children in care with a stable, secure and nurturing family because we believe the very best environment for a child to grow up is within a family unit. The needs and welfare of the child are paramount at all times and our product and services reflect that.

We will recruit and continuously train fully competent foster carers from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds in order to deliver a fully inclusive, holistic approach in supporting children and young people. Our foster carers will include those who are trained and skilled in offering specialist placements to accommodate teenagers, disabled and special needs placements.

Implementing the national minimum standards we will ensure the physical, mental, emotional and educational welfare of our looked after children is one of the utmost importance and we will strive to exceed the expectations outlined in the 'Fostering Services National Minimum Standards and Regulations 2011.

Children should have an enjoyable childhood – and My Foster Carer will endeavor to create environments where that is possible.

The Team

My Foster Carer is led by the Director and managed by the Registered Manager.

The Organisation's management, operations and activities are overseen by the Directors, who are responsible for providing direction, management support and advice to the team.

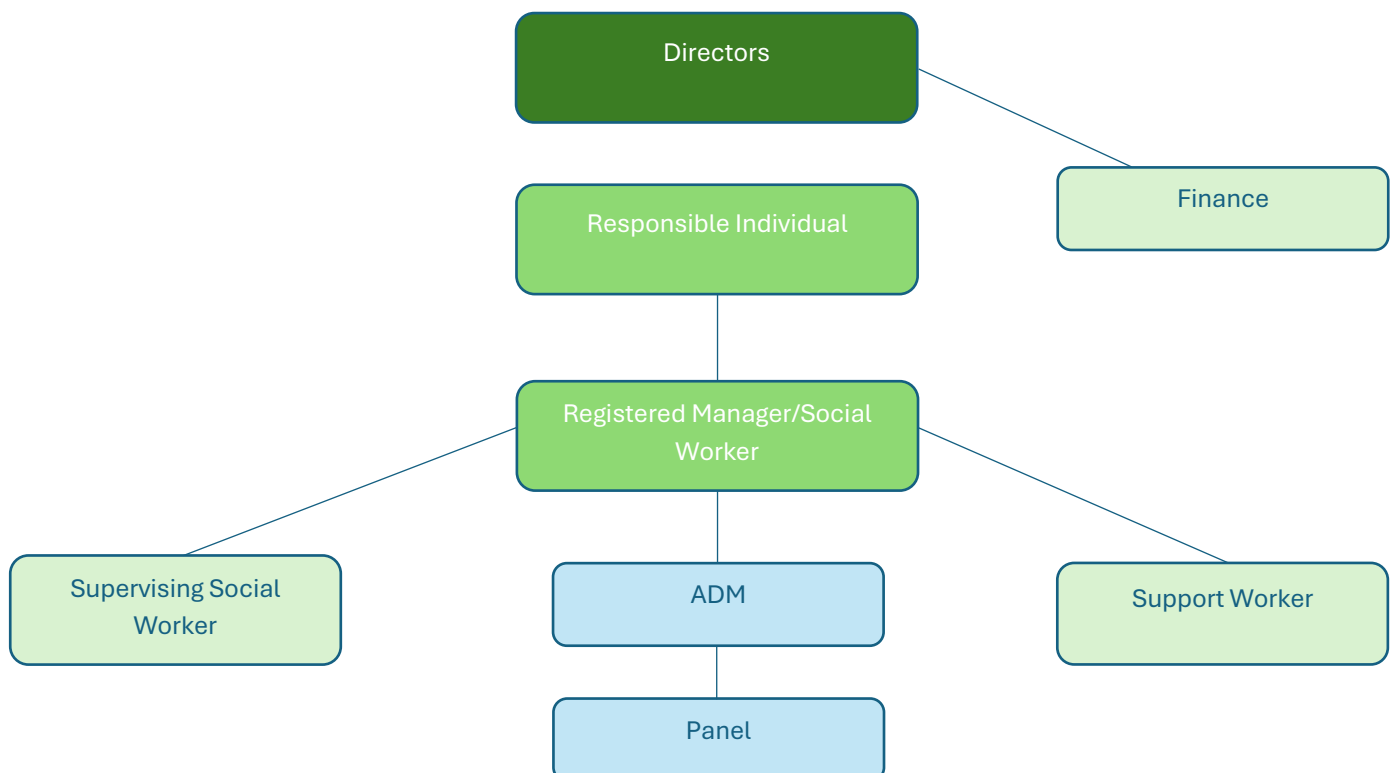
The Registered Manager is responsible for managing and coordinating all social work activities for the organization, management of the social work team and foster carers, and any other related provision or service relating to children and young people.

The Registered Manager will interlink with the Responsible Individual to ensure that management, operational activity and performance targets are maintained across the organisation; and that such processes are effective within the legal framework for foster care, conforming to regulatory directives and legislation.

The management team meets regularly and are responsible for the corporate governance of the company, strategic development and planning, as well as determining and reviewing the:

- Strategic vision and direction
- Aims & objectives
- Policies and procedures
- Financial Management
- Legal compliance
- Quality assurance
- Culture, values and beliefs

Team Structure



Our Core Values

My Foster Carer as a brand reflects the unique central position that IFA's have within the sector.

For us My Foster Carer aims to align with local authorities and foster carers to deliver genuine partnerships that will deliver the best outcome to children. Our brand values aim to represent this partnership with the children at the centre.

Vision

To provide safe homes and supportive relationships so that every child has the best chance of a brighter future.

Mission

To recruit, train and support a diverse range of foster carers, working in genuine partnership with local authorities and networks, so children's welfare, safety and outcomes remain at the centre of every decision.

Values

1) Children at the Centre

We put children's safety, stability and belonging first – building stable homes, built on love, where children feel secure, listened to, and able to thrive.

2) Carers Supported to Succeed

We empower foster carers through learning and support, as key members of the team around the child, so they can provide safe, stable, loving homes where children experience belonging – through training, support and reflective practice.

3) Partnership with Purpose

We work in genuine partnership with local authorities and the wider network to keep children safe, strengthen stability, and secure belonging – putting love, relationships and a stable home at the heart of every placement.

Our Services

- **Short Term** – This type of placement can start from as little as an overnight stay to a few months. Typically, these placements can consist of assessments, bridging, preparation for adoption/long term fostering, or a specific goal.
- **Long Term** – Young people who can no longer live with their birth family are placed in to a long term foster placement, until they are ready to move to independence.
- **Sibling Groups** – Keeping brothers and sisters together, where it is safe to do so, is very important to us, which is why we offer this type of placement. It requires a lot of energy,

determination and skill and we only offer these placements to our most capable and experienced foster families.

- Disability – Foster Carers will be assessed for their suitability and skills to care for a child with a disability. Appropriate training will be provided for carers to enable them to undertake their roles competently and keep children and young people safe. The knowledge of specialist professionals will be sought to support carers to fulfil this role.

Support for Children and Young People

The best interests the child at the forefront of our provision and to support this we will offer the following to children in our care:

- Support Visits
- School Trips/days out
- Activities outside the school e.g memberships of sports clubs/classes to learn new skills

Recruiting & Approving Foster Carers

Step 1 – Register Interest

Every new applicant is given an interest form to fill out which contains basic information about the applicant. This may be completed via telephone or via our website.

Step 2 – Home Visit

One of our team will come out to visit the applicant at their home, to have a conversation about fostering and answer any queries. This applicant will also give consent to start the assessment process to become a foster parent.

Step 3 – Assessment

A qualified social worker is assigned to carry out the comprehensive assessment, of the prospective foster carer and their family members. This is called the Form F. The social worker will produce a report which will cover the following:

- Family background and childhood
- Adult life (including employment and previous relationships)
- Personality and current relationship
- Household members (including children) and lifestyle
- Other children (and adults) and social support network
- Fostering capacity (which includes providing warmth, empathy, encouragement, structure, boundaries, durability, resilience and commitment)
- Understanding identity and diversity

Part of the assessment requires us to carry out statutory checks which include:

- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on applicants and adult household members
- Identity checks
- 3 referees, who will be visited by our social worker
- Employment reference
- Medical assessment report
- Ex-partner reference (if applicable)
- Health and safety assessment

The social worker will visit between 6 to 8 times to work with the applicants and their family to complete the assessment. It is a joint effort and everyone is encouraged to help with gathering the evidence for the assessment. The entire process usually takes between 4 and 6 months.

Once all the evidence has been gathered, the social worker will compile a report ready to be presented to the panel. Before the final report is presented to an independent review panel, the social worker and applicant will review the report and make any necessary amendments.

Step 4 – Panel

The applicants and the assessing social worker are required to attend the panel meeting where they are interviewed in line with the Form F report.

The panel is made up of independent members and experts from different professions who make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker on whether they think a person is fit to become a foster carer.

Step 5 – Approval

Once approved, the applicant will receive written approval from My Foster Carer, and will be assigned to a supervising social worker, who will supervise them and the child placed within their care.

In accordance with the Fostering Regulations 2013, all foster carers are required to sign and agree to a Foster Care Agreement Contract prior to caring for any child.

This is a contractual agreement between the foster carer and My Foster Carer Ltd. It includes the following; terms of approval, carer reviews, care planning, financial issues, changes in circumstances, behavioural issues, allowance issues, notice period. Following each annual review, the agreement will be updated.

Training our Foster Carers

At My Foster Carer we recognise the importance of supporting and developing our fostering families. Fostering, whilst rewarding can also be challenging and requires opportunities for reflection and learning.

We are committed to providing high quality learning and development opportunities that are accessible, credible and relevant to all our foster parents. Alongside a dedicated programme for learning and development will be opportunities for bespoke learning tied to individual need and experience.

As an agency My Foster Carer has made clear minimum expectations in relation to learning and development for all foster parents in accordance with best practice.

The Training, Support and Development Standards form part of foster parents' induction into the role. They provide a national benchmark that sets out what foster parents should know, understand and be able to do within the first 12 months after being approved.

Our Pre- Approval (preparation) training provides an introduction to the role and tasks involved in fostering and is linked directly to the TDS standards. It also includes one of the core training areas around recording and reporting.

Training is provided to:

Help foster parents gain a better understanding of their role.

Improve knowledge; develop and refine skills.

to understand that for many children discrimination is a fact of everyday life.

Ensure that all foster parents are competent and confident in safe caring and in protecting children from harm.

Encourage foster parents to take responsibility for their own professional development through the creation of individual training profiles.

Training at all levels incorporates certain key elements:

- Safeguarding children
- Working with children who have experienced trauma
- Safe caring
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Valuing diversity and promoting equality
- Recording
- First aid
- Health and safety
- Promoting positive outcomes for children and young people
- Preparing young people for moving on and adult independence.

Support provided to all Foster Carers:

At MFC we believe in the fair and equitable split of the placement fee and that is why we commit to paying a minimum of 50% of the fee received for any placements with carers themselves.

On top of this carers can also expect:

- Supervision from a Qualified Social worker
- Emergency out of hours support
- Three visits per quarter
- Foster Carer Group meetings
- Financial Support
- Annual Review
- Access to CHARMS database

Quality Assurance

My Foster Carer has a Quality Assurance programme with a variety of systems to ensure that each fostering arrangement is managed in the best interests of the children and young people and their placing authorities.

These include the following systems:

- Monthly Audits
- Family reviews
- Team meetings
- Supervision and Appraisal
- Management meetings
- Unannounced visits twice a year

In addition, the audits undertaken as part of the Quality Assurance policy will look at

- Panel function
- Personnel/HR
- Statement of Purpose
- Supervisions
- Reviews
- Training
- Compliance with National Minimum Standards and Regulations

We also seek feedback, via questionnaires, from:

- Staff
- Children and young people
- Commissioning teams
- Other Stakeholders

Complaints and Representations

My Foster Carer complaints policy places an emphasis on resolving complaints at a local level where appropriate.

Records of investigations and the outcomes of complaints resolved informally are held by My Foster Carer and collated to inform service improvement within management teams.

All children and young people living with My Foster Carer families are informed of the complaints procedure by their Supervising Social Worker.

In seeking to constantly improve the quality of its service, My Foster Carer welcomes and encourages constructive feedback from service users, providers and partners. We recognise that children, their birth family, fosters parents and prospective other caregivers are often best placed to identify the strengths and deficiencies of the Fostering Service, and therefore to inform changes and developments needed to ensure continuing improvements.

Foster parents are encouraged to make use of the complaints procedures if necessary in order to make complaints on their own behalf in connection with matters prescribed in the Children Act 1989.

The Agency has a full Complaints, Representations and Compliments Policy and Procedure which is available by request or online.

Complaints can be made directly to the Manager, Julia Robertson or to Mick Austin..

Complaints about the Registered Manager can be made either to the Responsible Individual Mick Auston directly to: Ofsted, via there online system, Tel: 0300 123 1231 or e-mail enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

The Children's Rights Commissioner ([www.children's commissioner.gov.uk](http://www.children'scommissioner.gov.uk)) can be contacted at: The Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London. SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 0207 783 8330

info.request@children'scommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Equality and Diversity

My Foster Carer is fully committed to not discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexuality, disability or age. To ensure these values are reinforced, we have a robust policy in place which defines our intent to deal with everyone in a fair and professional manner. This policy is written in line with the Equality Act 2010 and is available upon request.