STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Updated August 2026

FOSTERING UK
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Statement of Purpose

Introduction

This Statement of Purpose is provided in accordance with Regulation 3, FSR 2011 and Standard 16, NMS 2011. The Statement defines the objectives of the fostering service, and covers issues set out in both the Regulations and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services.
The expected outcome of the standard is: (Standard 16)

Children, their parents, foster carers, staff and the responsible authority/placing authority are clear about the aims and objectives of the fostering service, and which services and facilities it provides.

This Statement of Purpose set out below is formally approved by the Fostering UK 'Responsible Individual', who has the responsibility of ensuring that the Statement is reviewed, updated and modified where necessary, at least annually, and, in line with FSR Regulation 4(a) FSR 2011 and NMS 16, ensuring that Fostering UK's policies, procedures and written guidance to all staff and foster carers, accurately reflect this statement of purpose. The 'Responsible Individual' is responsible for providing Ofsted with a current copy of the Statement of Purpose, the "Children's Guide" referred to below, and for advising Ofsted (within 28 days) of any revisions made by Fostering UK to either document, as provided for at Regulation 4(b) FSR 2011.

A "Children's Guide" booklet is available to all looked after children who are fostered by the Fostering UK independent fostering agency, and where appropriate, it will be produced in varied formats to meet the needs of various groups of children. The guide, produced to ensure the wellbeing of children in placement, clearly outlines how they children access an independent advocate, and make direct representations and complaints.

The guide will be made available to all children (over the age of four), their foster carer and their allocated Local Authority Social Worker, as well as their parent(s) upon request. The guide is available to be printed in different languages and formats, if required.

The diversity of all children and carers is valued by Fostering UK and they are continually striving to ensure that the guide, and other material, is made more accessible to children and/or parents who have a learning disability. They do this through the use of varied means of communication, as appropriate to the needs of the individual, in line with NMS 2: promoting a positive identity, potential and valuing diversity through individualised care.

Status and Constitution

Fostering UK is a limited company, established in January 2016 by Ian Johnson. The Organisation is an Independent Fostering Agency. Ofsted are responsible for inspecting Fostering UK's functioning and the standards of its services.

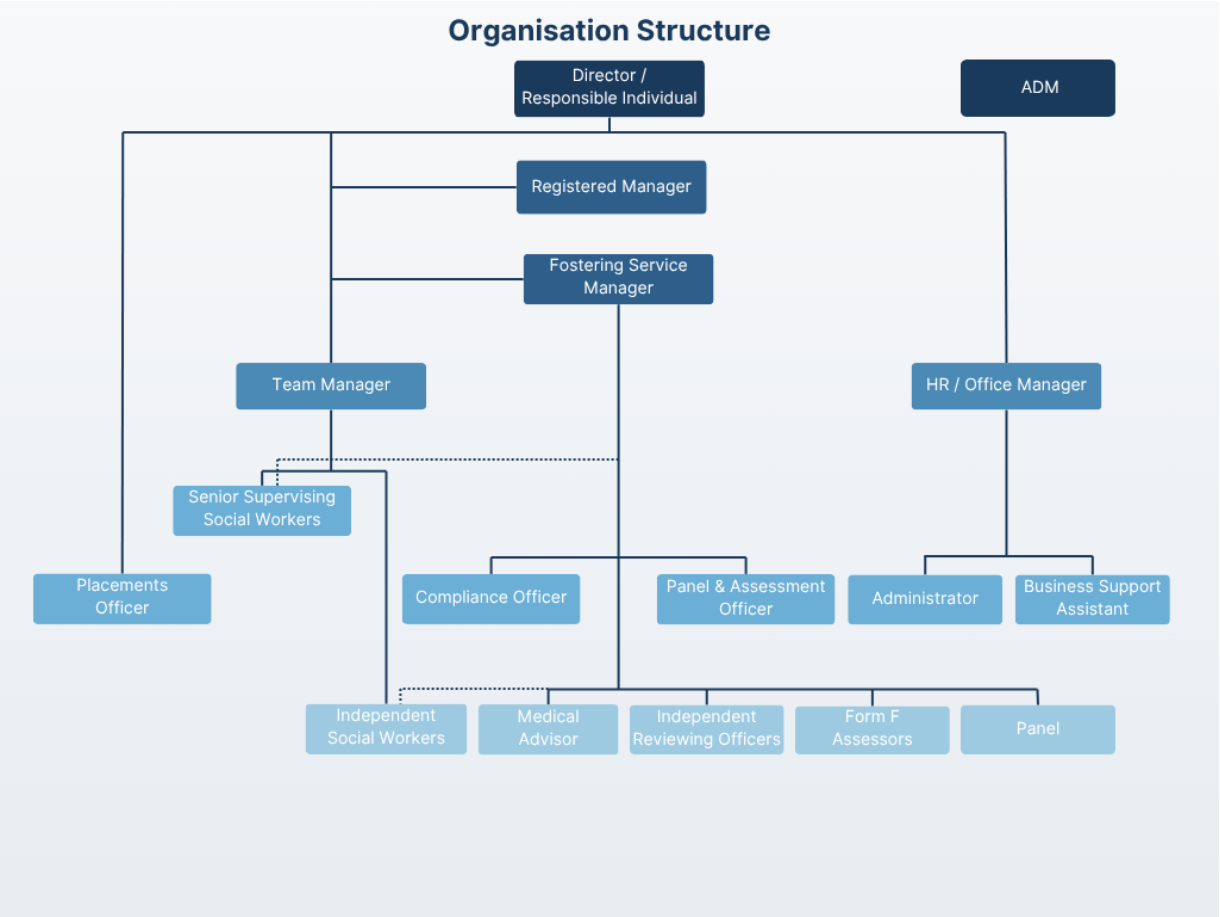
Fostering UK's head office is situated in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. Fostering UK will be registered with relevant contractors and is a member of the NAFP.

The Registered Provider shall carry on the fostering agency in such manner as is likely to ensure that it will be financially viable for the purposes of achieving the aims and objectives set out in the statement of purpose. Adequate accounts will be maintained, and a copy of these accounts will be provided to Ofsted by a certified accountant.

Fostering UK Staff

The Senior Management Team has responsibility for Fostering UK's overall management, operation and strategic development. The senior management team promotes the agency with developing its growth and quality agendas.

Fostering UK has an appointed 'Responsible Individual', in line with the Fostering regulations 2011 5 (1) d and 5 (2). Fostering UKs appointed 'Registered Manager' (FSR reg.6) is a qualified social worker with extensive experience as a registered manager. The Responsible Individual is Ian Johnson, The Director/Owner. Ian until recently, was a qualified social worker with over thirty years' experience in all areas of children's services. The main being fostering. Ian is responsible for ensuring that the agency has sound governance and meets the required standards as prescribed by the NMS 2011 and fostering service regulations.



Services Provided

Fostering UK provides foster care placements with approved foster carers for children and young people who are looked after by Local Authorities. We operate and provide placements to Local Authority commissioners and Social Services departments. We support placements of children and their foster carers through the provision of Supervising Social Workers who work together with our foster carers to meet the individual needs of the children in our care.

Fostering UK provides Local Authorities with short, medium and long-term foster care placements, provides emergency, respite and bridging placements for permanency and other plans for looked after children. Fostering UK also provides specialist placements for Parent and Child, sibling groups and children with challenging behaviour and special needs. Fostering UK may also provide “sanctuary” placements for children and young people seeking asylum, which will require

additional support from the Local Authority. The agency will support children placed under long term and staying put arrangements.

Children will only be placed with fully approved foster carers.

Any other services required can be negotiated with the Agency separately either prior to, or during, the duration of the placement.

The recruitment, assessment, and approval of foster carers is focused on providing a range of carers able to meet the diverse needs of the children referred to us.

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of Fostering UK are to:

- Offer safe, nurturing and therapeutic foster care placements that will enhance the well-being and welfare of children looked after by local authorities, who contract approved foster placements/services from Fostering UK

- Provide an effective and efficient fostering service agency which is sensitive, responsive and relevant to children's, carers', parents' and Local Authority needs and requirements.

- Maintain effective safe recruitment strategies to recruit carers from a broad spectrum of groups in society, thus promoting a greater choice of placement for children

- Ensure that children are appropriately matched and placed with approved carers who are able to offer a high standard of safe, consistent and effective care

In pursuing these aims, Fostering UK expects all its carers to understand the dimensions of a child's developmental needs, to provide optimum care along various dimensions of parenting capacity, whilst acknowledging the child's environment, to work in partnership with the child, the child's family and professionals to secure the objectives of the child's care plan.

Fostering UK's Objectives Through its Placements are to:

- Meet the day-to-day needs of all children placed with Fostering UK's carers, to keep them safe from harm and neglect, and from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.
- Ensure that all children/young people form attachments with carers providing safe and effective care through a high warmth/low criticism style of parenting.

- Contribute positively to planning for individual children and young people, thereby improving their life chances and opportunities.
- Work with children and young people, their carers, and relevant voluntary and statutory agencies to address the problems resulting in the child or young person being looked after in foster care.
- Promote the participation of the child's parents and/or others with Parental Responsibility, in all aspects of planning and decision making for the child, where appropriate.
- Offer support and guidance to children and young people in education or employment.
- Encourage, and provide the means for, a healthy lifestyle.
- Raise awareness of health care matters in the child or young person.
- Give support and guidance to young people through the difficulties and experiences of their adolescence.
- Provide support and guidance for children and young people living away from their home.
  Respect an individual's identity and to accept and support children with their culture and heritage.
- Support young people in preparation for permanency and/or independence.
- Encourage children and young people, according to their age and understanding, to participate in planning and decision-making affecting their lives.
- Listen to what children and young people say, to help them achieve positive outcomes.
- Improve the level of care provided by Fostering UK through active consultation with children and young people.

Principles and Standards of Care

Fostering UK acknowledges and subscribes to several important principles, values, and defined standards of care in carrying out its functions as an independent fostering agency compliant with UK legislative requirements.

Fostering UK embraces the principles and rights of children embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Children Act 1989 & 2004 and Every Child Matters (2004), The Human Rights Act 1998, Data Protection Act 1998, Protection of Children Act 1999. Fostering UK supports these important principles/rights in both practice and policy and ensures that a child centred focus is maintained throughout the placement. Whilst the impact of other matters or circumstances arising during placement may need to be assessed and taken account of, the welfare of the child remains paramount.

Fostering UK seeks to work closely and co-operatively with Local Authority Social Workers, managers, and other representatives. Also, as part of working in partnership, every effort will be made to work with parents, those with parental responsibility and significant others, to identify and meet the needs of the child.

Fostering UK fully recognises their duty to encourage and facilitate such contact where it is deemed to be in the child's interest. The value of contact for the child is an important aspect of the preparation training of foster carers. Contact arrangements are normally identified and formally agreed at the Placement Agreement Meeting held at the time a child is placed, but the level, frequency and parties to contact, will be reviewed regularly.

Fostering UK is committed to working in partnership with other organisations to safeguard children at risk and has developed robust policies and guidance for staff and carers to ensure compliance within Fostering UK with this commitment. In carrying out its functions as a fostering service provider, Fostering UK an independent fostering agency ensures that practice and standards conform to the legislative requirements detailed within the documents published by the Government, namely, the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services 2011 and Fostering Services Regulations 2011.

All staff know where to access the fostering standards and regulations and receive appropriate training in those aspects relevant to their specific duties. Set out below are certain principles that relate to childcare practice generally and are important in Fostering UK's provision of foster care.

All foster carers have access to the agency foster carer handbook and all fostering policies and procedures through their CHARMS log in via the document store.

Equal Opportunities Policy and Anti-Discriminatory Practice

Standard 2.1 of the National Minimum Standards covers services that value diversity and promote equality, and the provision of carers who can provide placements that ensure children are provided with personalised care that meets their needs and promotes all aspects of their individual identity.

Fostering UK operates an equal opportunities policy, which covers staff recruitment, training and career development, as well as the recruitment of foster carers, their assessment, approval and ongoing training.

Confidentiality/Disclosure of Information

Fostering UK adheres to the Data Protection Act. Staff, carers and fostering panel members are contracted to respect confidentiality in their work for Fostering UK.

Protection of Children

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people placed with our foster families is of paramount importance to Fostering UK. Robust child protection and safeguarding measures are in place to ensure that children and young people are protected and kept safe within the fostering environment and all aspects of their day-to-day lives.

As part of our safe recruitment strategy rigorous checks are carried out on staff, foster carers and their family members and regular visitors. Staff and foster carers are trained in safe caring, risk assessment and behaviour management strategies to ensure that risk to children is minimized and placement stability maintained. Bespoke training is also provided in relation to meeting the needs of individual children where there is a high level of challenging behaviour, allegations and/or “at risk” behaviour.

The agency has a designated safeguarding lead and this is the registered manager.

Complaints/Representations/Advocacy

Fostering UK has a formal complaints and representations procedure, provided to children, their families, all foster carers and staff and other relevant agencies as specified in FSR 18: — (1) that the registered person in respect of an independent fostering agency shall establish a written procedure for considering complaints made by, or on behalf of, children placed by the Agency and foster parents approved by it.

All complaints received by Fostering UK will be processed in accordance with Regulation 18, FSR 2011.

Children and adults may also make representations directly to Ofsted and the Agency also has a whistle blowing policy for staff and carers.

Recruitment of Foster Carers

Fostering UK foster carers are recruited mainly through recommendation from existing carers. Fostering UK’s policy in recruitment of foster carers targets a range of applicants to ensure we can best meet the diverse needs of children referred to us by Local Authorities. Analysis of referrals from contracting authorities and commissioners informs Fostering UK’s priorities regarding recruitment direction and

strategy. However, recruitment and consideration of all applicants to foster for Fostering UK is carried out in accordance with Fostering UK's equal opportunities policy and safe recruitment strategy.

Fostering UK uses the BAAF Form F format, which encompasses all the necessary criteria for the collection, collation, analysis and presentation of data, and the demonstration of competencies required to foster.

Fostering UK uses experienced and qualified Social Workers to undertake prospective foster carer assessments and preparation training. Feedback regarding the whole assessment process, from initial enquiry to attendance at Panel, is sought from all applicants and is monitored and overseen by the Registered Manager.

Approval of Foster Carers

A rigorous assessment process of applicants to foster is carried out by qualified Social Workers, who are experienced in childcare and fostering. The assessing social worker receives supervision from a more experienced colleague throughout the assessment process.
The assessments will look at prospective carers qualities, competencies and skills in the following areas (NMS 13.2)

- child rearing
- resilience and nurturing qualities
- ability to promote diversity
- ability to advocate on behalf of children
- caring for children born to someone else
- contact between fostered children and their families
- helping children make sense of their past
- sexual boundaries and attitudes
- awareness of issues around child abuse
- approaches to discipline
- awareness of how to promote secure attachments between children and appropriate adults
- awareness of own motivation for fostering/own needs to be met through the fostering process
- ability to present professionally and record information accurately
- racial/cultural/linguistic issues
- standard of living and lifestyle
- health
- own experience of parenting and being parented
- own experiences in relation to disability and/or attitudes to disability

During the assessment references are taken up and referees are interviewed. Enhanced checks on applicants are carried out with the DBS, the local authority of the address/es the applicant has lived in within the last ten years, current/previous employers and other appropriate bodies and agencies. Prospective foster carers for Fostering UK undergo a medical examination to ensure physical and mental fitness for the task. A qualified medical adviser views all medical forms on prospective carers and is available to provide advice to the Fostering UK fostering panel. Carers who have lived overseas from the age of 18 years old will also have checks undertaken on them from the countries they were resident in.

At the completion of the assessment, the Social Worker compiles a report, along with other relevant documents that are then considered by Fostering UK's Fostering Panel. Both the assessing Social Worker and the applicant(s) attend the Panel when the application is being considered. Assessment of foster carers to undertake specific tasks is processed against agreed competencies for the tasks. Some applicants, for various reasons, may be 'counselled out' as unsuitable to foster before the assessment is considered by Fostering UK's panel, when this happens the applicant(s) will be informed on this decision in a timely manner. After consideration, the Panel recommends to Fostering UK's Agency Decision Maker whether an applicant is suitable, and any conditions which should be attached to the approval if given.

Only the Agency Decision Maker can decide if an applicant can be approved as a foster carer.

The Fostering Panel – Central List

The fostering panel is comprised of both Fostering UK staff and other independent members who have experience, knowledge and skills in childcare and fostering, in accordance with the fostering regulations. All Panel members recognise that Panel is not a decision-making body but is one that makes a recommendation only.

Training of Fostering UK Foster Carers

All prospective foster carers are required to undertake 'Skills to Foster' preparation training provided by Fostering UK, this is a long standing tried and tested training provided by the Fostering network. This training, for small groups of applicants, is given during the assessment period, helping to identify future training needs so that, following approval, each carer has a training profile drawn up; this profile is also informed by monthly supervision and reviewed annually. Fostering UK encourages foster carers to undergo training in the development of new skills and knowledge and provides courses and seminars to update foster carers where important changes to

legislation are introduced, or where there are significant developments in the fostering field or role.

All agency training for foster carers fits within a framework of equal opportunities, and anti-discriminatory practice as required by NMS 20.10. Fostering UK provides practical and other assistance to facilitate attendance on training courses by carers, and organises the times, venues, etc. to maximize attendance by its carers. Carers are supported in achieving their Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care in their first twelve months of approval. Encouragement and support is given to those foster carers who wish to seek a formal qualification in the fostering field, for example, by pursuing NVQ courses.

Support for Fostering UK Foster Carers

Following approval, each foster carer signs a formal agreement with Fostering UK. This agreement outlines the expectations for each party and the main features of the relationship. Advice, written policies and procedures for carers and staff relating to their roles as Social Workers and foster carers, are available CHARMS and saved digitally on this platform.

Each foster carer is also directly supported by a Supervising Social Worker employed by Fostering UK. The Supervising Social Worker advises and offers support to the foster carer and monitors the standard of care given to the child or young person monthly or more frequently as required. Weekly contact with foster carers is also provided by staff through various mediums. The Supervising Social Worker reports any concerns or difficulties in the home, or with the placement, to the Registered Manager who, where appropriate, will liaise with the placing authority regarding any issues that may need addressing.

In addition to the Supervising Social Worker allocated to each carer, Fostering UK offers 24-hour crisis support via telephone and through 'out of hours' support. In addition foster carers have 6 weekly support groups facilitated by staff to which foster carers are actively encouraged to attend.

Alongside this, Fostering UK arrange regular Foster Carer Forums to consult with, and refer to, carers on any matters related to the agency and their role within it.
As a fostering agency, Fostering UK encourages all its carers to include children placed into every aspect of family life. However, it is also acknowledged that some children present challenges to families who foster and therefore we recognize that there may be a need for respite provision for families, which will be considered on an individual basis.

Fostering UK Foster Carer Reviews

All foster carers are reviewed on an annual basis as a minimum requirement (13.8). The review is carried out with the foster carer(s), the Supervising Social Worker and a Reviewing Officer. A draft report is prepared for the meeting using the Coram BAAF format.

The report covers, amongst other matters:

- a review of all placements made in the last year (informed wherever possible by written reports/feedback requested from the children placed and their local authority social workers, and commissioners, etc.)
- any complaints and allegations made against the carer
- changes of circumstances and persons in the household
- training received/offered and identified
- the carer's and birth children's own views (where appropriate),
- the views and recommendations of the social worker and manager, including review of approval and any qualifying conditions considered necessary

Any Section 47 enquiry, standards of care concerns or serious complaint in relation to a fostering household will automatically trigger a Foster Home Review. These will be taken back to Fostering UK panel where foster home reviews and associated reports are considered by Fostering UK's fostering panel, foster carers first reviews also go back to Fostering UK panel, which may recommend a variation or continuation of approval as appropriate. Recommendations are then considered by the Agency Decision Maker and ratified or discussed as required.

Complaints

If you would like to formally make a complaint, please contact Fostering UK on 0333 044 8890 or info@fosteringuk.org.uk

Fostering UK is regulated by Ofsted who can be contacted at the address below:

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