

icanfoster

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icanfoster

Statement of Purpose

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Introduction

icanfoster is a private limited company, No: 12040156 and is regulated by Ofsted.

This Statement of Purpose has been developed in accordance with appropriate legislation and guidance including:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Care Standards Act 2000
- The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- Fostering Services National Minimum Standards 2011

icanfoster is an Independent Fostering Agency that provides a range of fostering placements to meet the needs of those children referred by Local Authorities.

The Agency is based in Telford, Shropshire.

Our Foster Carers will be recruited from the West Midlands, mid Wales and the surrounding areas and will provide services for the West Midlands Consortium plus other Local Authorities.

Number of Approved Foster Carers and Children Placed

The agency maintains a statutory register of all approved Foster Carers and of those children placed with icanfoster. This information is monitored continually by the Senior Management of the agency.

Inspire

Children

Always

Never

Forget

Our

Success

Together

Ensures

Results

About icanfoster

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icanfoster is the creation of three founder members who will head the agency as Fostering Manager, Responsible Individual and Office Manager.

They have extensive experience in creating Independent Fostering Agencies and possess excellent credentials and a proven track record in the private and public care sector.

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The Fostering Manager is an experienced Social Work Manager with an impeccable record. His qualifications include a degree in Psychology, Level 5 Management and a Master's Degree in Forensic Child Psychology and Law.

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icanfoster will recruit Supervising Social Workers that are exceptionally well qualified and are able to provide a high level of support to Foster Carers and those children within their care. They will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience and embrace the shared ethos of the agency.

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icanfoster's Administration team will be intrinsic to the success of the agency. The Office Manager has nearly 30 years' experience in the Administration and Child Protection domain and has experience of working within high-profile organisations.

The Administration team will ensure the efficiency of the service as well as providing the administrative support to the Fostering Panel.

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icanfoster has a number of exceptional Independent Consultants willing to provide additional social work, education, CAMHS and specialist therapeutic support to enhance the work of the agency.

Success

The Directors at icanfoster aim to build a thriving team by recruiting genuine and caring individuals who are innovative and motivated, but above all else are committed to creating and delivering a child centred, needs led service whilst ensuring the standard of care provided by the Agency is second to none. With this in mind they will seek exceptional people at every level of the service.

Together

The employees, Foster Carers and those working with icanfoster will be from a diverse background and share a core group of values like honesty, openness, social responsibility and a genuine desire to care for others.

Ensures

Results



Support them in the present – inspire them for the future



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The Aim and Objectives of icanfoster and Principles of Care

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The primary aim of the agency is a simple one. To recruit, train and develop a team of like-minded professionals and Foster Carers to provide the best possible environment for children and young people. Children who have been traumatised by past experiences and poor parenting, will feel safe, wanted, and loved, so helping them to thrive in all aspects of their social, behavioural and educational development.

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The agency objectives are to:

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- Provide a skilled and flexible service that is able to meet the wide range of assessed needs of children and their families;
- Ensure that Foster Carers receive excellent and varied training, professional support and elevated financial remuneration to assist them in providing safe and appropriate care to the children placed with them;
- Enable children to be placed within their local communities, when appropriate;
- Respect and promote the child's heritage, culture and identity;
- Promote positive contact between the child and their family, when appropriate;
- Promote the child's health and development through high standards of care and support from other agencies, particularly health and education services;
- Ensure openness and partnership working between all those involved and concerned with the child's welfare;
- Provide a wide range of therapeutic services to enable children and young people recover from trauma.

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icanfoster is a developing organisation, committed to implementing and exceeding the National Minimum Standards for Foster Care.



Success

Principles underpinning the agency are:

- All foster carers are vetted, assessed and trained in line with national regulations and requirements;
- The icanfoster Panel considers all Foster Carer applications, Annual and subsequent reviews of approval;
- All approved Foster Carers are required to sign the icanfoster Foster Care Agreement;
- All Foster Carers have a named Supervising Social Worker or Family Support Worker and will receive monthly supervision as a minimum;
- All placements made are matched to ensure the needs of the child and the skills and experience of the Foster Carer(s);
- All Foster Carers are provided with the required documentation to support the placement of the child in their care;
- Children will receive a carer profile prior to placement and a Welcome Pack upon arrival;
- Children have their Placement and Foster Care plan reviewed within four weeks;
- Foster carers, looked after children and their parents have access to the agencies Complaints and Representation procedure.

Together

Ensures

Results

The possibilities are endless when we work together

Services Provided by icanfoster

Respite or Shared Care

Providing regular, short respite breaks to children living in the community, or to other Foster Carers, where this is part of the child's care plan.

Emergency Foster Care

This is the placement of a child on the same day as referral and is a temporary arrangement subject to review.



Long-Term Foster Care

This is a placement where the Foster Carers' understanding, expectations and commitment is that the placement will continue into late adolescence providing ongoing support into adulthood

Short-Term Foster Care

These are planned placements that can be up to one year to assist in the assessment of the child's needs and prepare the child for moving on in line with agreed care plans

Recruitment, Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers

Inspire Recruitment of Foster Carers takes place using the full range of media and marketing opportunities.

The agency actively promotes the professional status of fostering through comprehensive training, expert supervision and an excellent remuneration package.

Children Potential carers are sent a Fostering Information Pack, including an application form, within 3 days of their initial enquiry.

Always Upon receipt of an Application Form, an Initial Home Visit is arranged within 5 working days by the Fostering Manager.

The assessment, based on the BAAF Form F, is completed by a qualified Social Worker and will be completed within 3 months of the application. The assessment is underpinned by a working agreement completed with the applicants.

Never Suitable applicants complete the 'Skills to Foster' preparation training, a combination of on-line and face-to face training whilst references and other statutory checks are undertaken.

The assessed competencies are:

- Forget**
- caring for children;
 - providing a safe and caring environment;
 - working as part of a team;
 - commitment towards own development and training.



Our Applicants are then required to attend the Fostering Panel meeting.

The Agency Decision Maker receives the recommendation of the Fostering Panel and, on behalf of the agency, makes the final decision about approval.

Success Approved Foster Carers receive a comprehensive Induction Pack and are guided by their Supervising Social Worker.

Together The Panel considers the Annual Review of all Foster Carers and recommends to the agency the ongoing approval, variation or termination of a carer's approval status.

I Can Foster Panel and Agency Decision Makers

Ensures In accordance with Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, the agency maintains a Central List of individuals suitable to sit on icanfoster's Panel. The main objective of the Fostering Panel is to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in foster care.

Results The Fostering Panel meets at least monthly and is a committed group of individuals from varied backgrounds and with invaluable experience of education, finance, the Looked After System, Child and Adolescent Mental Health and legal matters. They include Magistrates, Head Teachers, Therapeutic Social Workers and those who were in the Looked After System as children.

The Panel also has access to an Independent Medical Advisor when required.

icanfoster has an independent Agency Decision Maker who has exceptional experience of Social Work and shares the same values, integrity and ethos of the agency.

Their dreams are in our hands

Training and Support for Foster Carers

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icanfoster provides a varied training provision that is reviewed annually, in consultation with Foster Carers, and includes Skills to Foster, Core training and specialist training courses.

It is expected that all Foster Carers will complete the Core Training and the Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Carers (TSDS) booklet in the first year of their approval.

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With this in mind the Agency ensures that training is accessible providing both face-to-face, group training and online training.

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It is the expectation of the agency that Foster Carers commit to ongoing training and recognise the importance of ongoing professional learning as part of their fostering role.

In addition to the multi-agency team there is a comprehensive network of support services to Foster Carers and children in placement. These include:

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- Membership of FosterTalk
- Counselling and mentoring by an experienced Foster Carer
- Local fostering support groups
- Out of Hours Support Line
- Financial remuneration
- Respite care if needed
- Support to children with educational issues
- Support to children/carers where sexually inappropriate behaviour is an issue
- Paid Annual Leave



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Our Successes

At icanfoster we feel that it is important to share the successes and achievements of all that are involved within the agency.

Success

Detailed below are just some of the activities and events we plan to recognise children and Foster Carers and involve those that support them in providing foster care that is second to none.

Together

Ensures

Results

- Fun Day – an event where all Foster Carers, Children and the local community are invited to share in a fun and free summer event.
- Adventure Holidays where children, birth children and Foster Carers take part in activities aimed at improving self-esteem and teamwork. These include mountaineering, rough camping, bush craft, fishing and kayaking.
- Awards Ceremony – An event where the achievements of Foster Carers, birthchildren and foster children are recognised.
- Christmas Party – where all those involved with the agency are invited to attend.
- Agency Activity days – where everyone is invited to join the team on a day out i.e. Beach Days, Zoo and Museum trips, bike rides and sponsored walks.
- Summer Reading and Writing Competitions – open to all foster children, birth children, Foster Carers and employees.
- Regular Newsletters for Foster Carers and children.
- Virtual, face-to-face and on-line Support Groups organised and managed by Foster Carers.

icanfoster and those working with us also actively provide support to a variety of charities.

Don't let their past dictate their future

Inspire

Complaints and Compliments about the Agency

icanfoster always welcomes feedback from those children, fostering families, individuals and organisations that it works with.

Children

Compliments and complaints help to configure the development of the agency and ensure that the vision of icanfoster is supported by those around the agency.

Always

Through the Independent Complaints Officer complaints about the agency are monitored and reported to the Fostering Panel, Responsible Individual and Registered Manager.

The Complaints Officer can be contacted at:

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Suite 9
M54 Space Centre
Halesfield 8
Telford
Shropshire
TF7 4QN

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Ofsted can be contacted at the following address:

Our

HMCI
Ofsted
Picadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Success

Tel: 0300 1231231
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

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