

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**FOSTERING SERVICE**

**April 2020**



**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

It is a requirement of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, that each Fostering Agency produces a Statement of Purpose, outlining its aims and objectives and services. This Statement of Purpose outlines the aims and objectives of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the services provided to our approved foster carers and those who use the Fostering Service.

This statement is available to all members of staff, foster carers, children and birth parents and is publicised on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website. The statement is updated and amended annually.

## **2. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Fostering Service is run in accordance with the principles outlined in:

- Children Act 1989
- Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2013 (Amendments to the Children Act 1989)
- Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards (2011)
- Children Act Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services (2011)
- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010
- Care Planning and Fostering Regulations (Amendments) 2015
- The Disability and Equality Act 2010
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Children ( Leaving care) Act 2000
- Training, Support and Development Standards (TSD) for Foster Carers

## **3. MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to provide high quality, diverse family placements for children and young people. Carers will be continuously trained and supported by a highly-regarded team of professionals to promote stable and safe placements. The Children's Fostering and Carer's Team will inspire confidence in children and young people to do the best they possibly can to develop and reach their personal goals. The Team will provide a respectful service, which strives to be free from discrimination, prejudice and racism.

## **4. AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the Children's Fostering and Carer's Service is to provide high quality, diverse family placements, which meet the needs of children and young people. Our goal is to ensure that children enjoy a safe, healthy childhood, built on happy memories and loving relationships, where they are encouraged and given every opportunity to achieve in all areas of their lives. Where appropriate, children will be encouraged and supported to remain with their foster carer under a Staying Put arrangement, once they reach adulthood.

The Fostering Service objectives:

- Proactively recruit, prepare, assess and train foster carers from a diverse range of backgrounds, who can meet the holistic needs of children.

- Where possible, place children with carers who are connected to them by virtue of being a family member or friend. These foster carers will be assessed, trained and supported by workers who have specialist experience of working with connected carers. The connected person's carer will receive the same level of supervision and support as an unrelated foster carer.
- Listen to children and consider their views when planning for their care.
- Where possible, and where it is consistent with the child's best interests, place siblings together.
- Give consideration to a child's age, gender, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability and language as well as their personal experiences when identifying and matching children to carers.
- Promote contact for the child or young person and his/her birth family throughout their placement, and encourage and facilitate this as appropriate.
- Work in partnership with professionals and other significant people in a child's life to identify, maintain and support the child in placement.
- Work in partnership with Independent Fostering Agencies and other agencies to identify suitable placements for children.
- Offer to all foster carers regular supervision, support and opportunities for training and development.
- Ensure foster carers make children and young people aware of their rights and the complaints, compliments and advocacy process by providing the relevant information
- Work in partnership with Independent Fostering Agencies and members of the Regional Consortium to identify suitable placements for children.
- Value our foster carers and celebrate and recognize their ongoing contribution to the Children's Fostering and Carer's Service.
- Ensure that all practice promotes equal opportunities for all and value diversity of both foster children and carers regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, age, religious beliefs, disability or marital status.
- Ensure that any decisions are transparent and fair and that any concerns are addressed and information about the complaints procedure is made available to all.
- Promote team and personal development and training for staff.
- Provide a seamless service for foster carers who go on to offer 'Staying Put' to young adults, previously in our care.

## **5. PRINCIPLES**

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Fostering Service works on the following principles:-

### **a. Child Focused**

The child's welfare, safety and individual needs are at the centre of the fostering process. Children's views wishes and feelings will be considered at all times.

All assessments of prospective carers will focus on the carers' ability to safely meet the needs of children.

### **b. Partnership**

The Fostering Service will work in partnership with parents and children, foster carers and their families, social work staff, other professionals and agencies when providing the service.

c. **Anti-Discriminatory Practice**

The Fostering Service will respect human rights and will ensure that there is fair and equal access to all of its services. The services provided will be free from discrimination, prejudice and racism.

**6. STANDARDS**

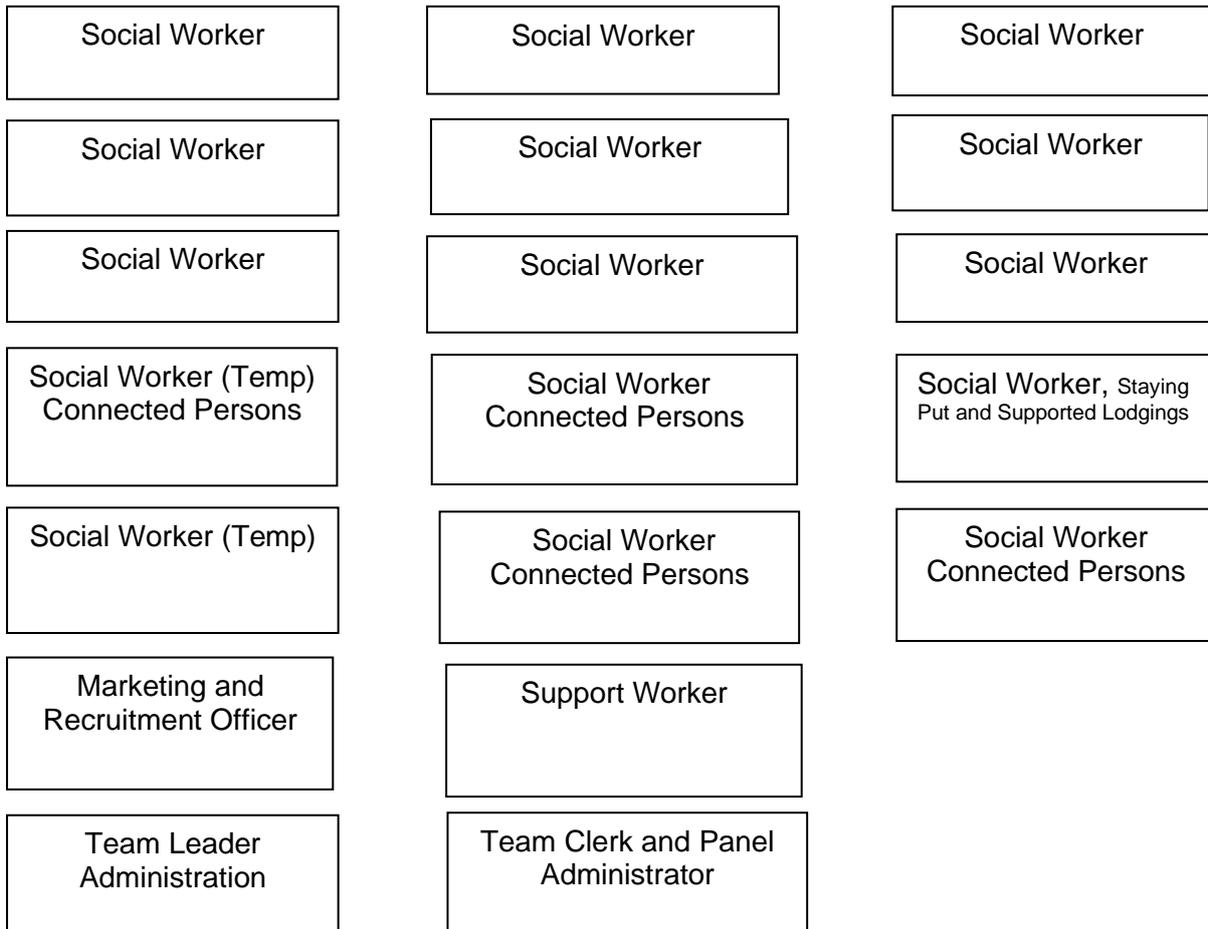
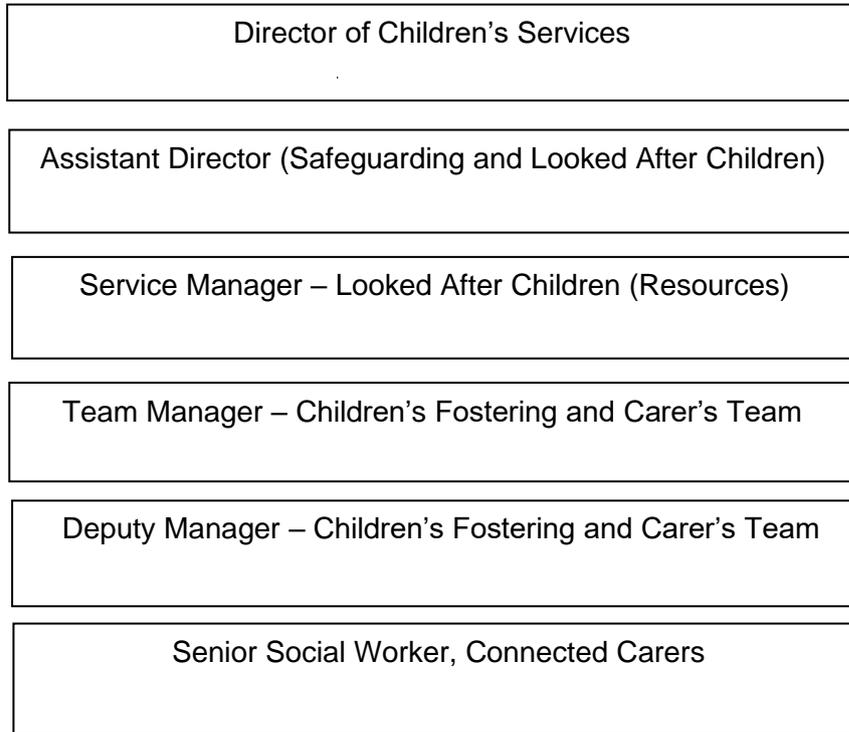
In addition to the national standards, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Fostering Service has adopted local standards, which underpin its approach to service delivery. These include:-

- Responding to enquiries from potential foster carers in a positive and welcoming manner and sending them an information pack within three working days of receiving the enquiry.
- The use of a banded payments system, which recognises the valuable contribution made by foster carers as they develop skills and experience, and relates the payment received to the skills and experience they have developed.

**7. MANAGEMENT OF THE SERVICE**  
**STRUCTURE AND FOSTERING SERVICE STAFF**

The Fostering Service is provided by staff from the Children’s Fostering and Carer’s Team which is part of Looked After Children’s Services within Children’s Social Care.

The team offers a Fostering service. (From May 2018 Adoption Tees Valley offers an Adoption service for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and other Tees Valley local authorities.)



## **8. SERVICES PROVIDED**

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council provides a range of foster care placements for Children in the care of the Local Authority. Foster carers may be registered for one particular type of placement or a variety of placements.

The following types of placement are offered:

### **Short term/temporary**

These placements range from an overnight stay to several months duration. In some cases placements can last several years before a child's plan is finalised, particularly if there are court proceedings.

The main purpose of these placements is to provide the child with temporary substitute care where children are unable to remain in the care of their parents and the focus is on supporting the children to return home to birth family or move on to long term foster care or adoption. Occasionally short term foster carers can be reassessed and approved as long term foster carers. The tasks of the foster carers vary in accordance with the child's plan. Children may be placed in an emergency or in a planned way.

### **Long term/permanent**

These placements are for the duration of the child's childhood through to adulthood. The carer's task is to offer permanent substitute care to the child, often with contact birth families. These placements are always planned and may involve a match being made between a child and foster carer prior to placement. If a child is already in placement then a thorough matching process will take place to ensure that the child's long term needs can be met.

### **Bridging/task centred care**

These placements are usually for young people who are placed as an adolescent and the main task of the carers is to prepare the young person for independence or eventual return to birth family. In some instances these placements may be for younger children and could involve joining siblings together and the task of the carer may be to help prepare the child(ren) to move into a permanent placement.

### **Parent and Child**

A limited number of placements are available for parent and baby placements. The duration of the placement is usually for a matter of months and the task of the foster carer is to support and advise the parent and contribute to any parenting skills assessment that is being undertaken. It may be that the child is placed with the carer under fostering regulations and the parent not placed, or both parent and child may be fostered by the fostering family. These placements are usually for parents under the age of 18, however, on occasion this is also available to older parents.

### **Short break/respite**

Short break and respite care is for those children who are already in placement with foster carers. The aim of this placement is to support the child and the main placement.

### **Short break**

These placements are mainly used by those children who require, for whatever reason, a series of short breaks away from the family home. The main task of the carer is to provide the child with continuity of care away from home.

### **Emergency Carers**

These placements are available to children who require immediate placement outside of normal office hours. The children usually stay in these placements only for a matter of days until a more suitable placement is found.

### **Staying Put Carers**

Children who have been looked after by their foster carers on a permanent basis often wish to remain within the family after reaching the age of 18 years. Where this is felt to be in the young person's best interests, and with the agreement of the foster carer, the arrangement continues under a 'Staying Put' arrangement, which can last until a young person reaches 21, or up until the age of 25 if the young person remains in education or training. As the young people are over the age of 18 years, Staying Put is no longer a fostering arrangement. Foster carers may continue to be approved as foster carers if they are available for other foster placements and as such will continue to receive supervision and support via the Fostering Service. Where this is not the case, support and supervision will be offered by the Social Worker for Staying Put and Supported Lodgings Providers, also based within the Children's Fostering and Carer's Team.

### **Family and Friends/Connected Persons as Foster carers**

The Local Authority has a responsibility to consider whether anyone within the child's network of family and friends can safely care for the child when a decision has been made that the child cannot, for whatever reason, remain in the care of their parents. In these situations the children are placed with the connected person after the person has been fully assessed and approved as a foster carer.

If the placement has been made in an emergency under Regulation 24, the connected person assumes a temporary approval status and a suitability to foster assessment needs to be completed within 16 weeks of the child being placed.

The following services are provided to:

#### **a. Registered Foster Carers and Prospective Foster Carers**

- Advice and information (written/verbal) to those interested in becoming foster carers.
- Initial visits to people expressing an interest in becoming foster carers.
- Preparation training for applicants.
- Assessment and approval of suitability to foster.
- Supervision for approved foster carers.
- Support for foster carers and their families via support groups and social activities.
- Individual support, where required, by a support worker.
- Post-approval training for foster carers.
- Training and development opportunities for foster carers (Training and Development Standards, QCF Level 3 Childcare)
- Consultation with carers over development of the service.
- Independent annual foster care reviews.
- Groups for sons and daughters of foster carers.
- Equipment.
- Emergency Duty Team out-of-hour's service.

- Emergency duty support within office hours.
- CAMHS consultation service for carers.
- Advice and mediation service – spot purchase.
- Respite provision.
- Grants for adaptations in specific cases.
- Allowances / financial support.
- Virtual school.
- Looked After Children's Nurse.

b. **Social work staff who need a placement for a child looked after by the council**

- A Duty Social Worker available from 11am to 5pm Monday – Friday.
- Identification and provision of a range of foster care placements for Looked after Children.
- Liaison with other agencies to identify suitable placements when none are available from Stockton Fostering Service.
- Provision of carers for use by the Emergency Duty Team for placements at evening, weekends and Bank Holidays.
- Out of hours contact with Service Managers by the Emergency Duty Team.
- Advice and consultation to social workers with regard to placement issues.
- Training and team development sessions ie placement issues.

## **9. FOSTER CARERS**

At 31 March 2020 we had 165 foster carers formally approved by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Most live within the boundaries of the Borough, however, there are a small number who live outside of the Borough.

There were 312 children placed in the Fostering Service at this point, 179 children placed with connected foster carers and 133 with mainstream foster carers.

## **10. PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO RECRUITING, APPROVING, TRAINING, SUPPORTING AND REVIEWING CARERS**

### **a. Recruitment, Assessment and Approval**

The responsibility of recruiting, preparing, assessing, supervising, supporting training and developing foster carers and prospective foster carers lies with the Children's Fostering and Carers' Team.

Social Workers who place children with foster carers are responsible for ensuring that foster carers receive sufficient information about the child, their family and situation, as well as involving carers in the planning and consultation process. Placing Social Workers should ensure that they too also support the foster carer by visiting regularly and maintaining effective communication.

### **b. Recruitment of Foster Carers**

Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council aims to recruit and maintain a sufficient number and range of carers, to ensure appropriate placement choice for each child or young person who is in need of foster care. This includes proactive recruitment activity, succession planning and retention of the foster carer workforce.

Responsibility for recruitment lies within the Children's Fostering and Carer's Team.

We aim to place children within the Borough and within their own communities unless it is determined this is not in the best interests of the child or young person.

We promote the need to place children with carers who best reflect and manage the child's assessed needs in terms of emotional, ethnic, racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs, as well as any needs relating to disability, gender or sexuality.

In situations where placements are not available to meet all the needs of the child, support and information is made available to the carers to help them develop their skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the children.

### **c. Recruitment Strategy**

Throughout our recruitment strategy we aim to use the services of existing experienced foster carers as ambassadors wherever possible (eg attending Information Sessions); birth children of foster carers (eg through testimonials and social media); and children currently in our care – anonymously.

Recruitment takes place on three levels:

- Nationally  
Linking to national events (eg Foster Care Fortnight); and working in partnership with relevant national bodies (eg The Fostering Network).
- Regionally  
Working in partnership with Tees Valley Local Authorities through the Tees Valley Fostering Network (a collaboration of the fostering recruitment functions of the five Borough Councils), to produce joint advertising and recruitment campaigns. This helps achieve synergy from broader consistent messaging, and allows more efficient use of resources, eg radio and television campaigns.
- Locally  
Specifically identifying placement needs to target recruitment campaigns at distinct groups.

Local recruitment activity is at four levels:

- Continuous – with public information being circulated eg leaflet and poster format and digitally, on a regular basis to the public, eg health centres, leisure centres, libraries, local businesses, schools and colleges.
- Specific – for individual ‘hard to place’ children and young people.
- Targeted to need, ie adolescents, children with disabilities, age range and geographical areas.
- Within the kinship network of the children (connected person – family and friends care).

### **Identification of Need**

Needs are identified in a number of ways:

- Ongoing audit of placements available and placements needed.
- Via Children’s Fostering and Carer’s Team Meetings, where placement referrals are a standard agenda item.
- Annual Foster Care Reviews.
- Information regarding placement disruptions.

### **Recruitment Journey**

We aim for the recruitment of new foster carers to follow the most efficient path:

- advertising and marketing to result in initial enquiries
- information pack made available to enquirers
- monthly information sessions where general assessment criteria are outlined, and enquiries can move through an informal filtering process
- initial visits to enable prospective carers to progress their enquiry to Stage 1, where appropriate.

We support Supervising Social Workers’ day-to-day work regarding the retention of existing foster carers with activities including:

- social events for carers eg coffee mornings and quiz suppers

- social events for birth children eg ice-skating, bowling
- celebration events eg Foster Carer Awards Dinner, Mayor's Civic Awards
- informal, professional communications to enhance sense of belonging eg regular correspondence from Team Manager, quarterly Foster Carers' newsletters, social media posts.

The process of becoming an approved foster carer is governed by legislation and practice guidance. The process involves three stages:

- **Preliminary Stage – Seeking Information**

A potential applicant makes an enquiry with the Fostering Service. Enquiries are taken by a member of the Children's Fostering and Carers' Service, the Marketing and Recruitment Officer or by post; a record is kept of all enquiries. An information pack is sent out within three working days of receipt of the enquiry. If the enquirer wants to go on to the next stage, they send back a 'Request for Initial Visit' form.

A response to a request for an initial visit will be given within 10 working days. The Children's Fostering and Carers' Manager will arrange for two social workers from the team to visit and share information. A minimum of two visits will be undertaken with the focus being on discussing further the contents of the information pack and answering any queries, focussing on the needs of the children who are looked after and the role of the carer. The social workers will also find out about the family's circumstances, the home and its members and motivation to foster as well as give information about the application process.

We will let applicant know at this stage whether what is being offered compatible with our recruitment objectives and whether we consider that there is anything about the applicant's circumstances that may affect any decisions we may make when considering whether to proceed with any application made.

- **Stage 1 Process**

A Registration of Interest Form (RIF) is given to prospective carers if it has been agreed that it is appropriate to proceed with an application. Notification will be given within 5 working days whether or not the RIF has been accepted. The RIF includes consent for statutory checks for all relevant people in the household. Once the RIF has been returned and accepted, references are taken up with all relevant agencies as well as personal referees and current employer. In most circumstances we would also make contact with previous partners, who have shared a family relationship, adult children and previous employers where the applicant has worked with children or vulnerable adults. An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service application (DBS) will be made for all household members over the age of 18 years. Medical examinations are carried out by the applicant's doctor using the BAAF Medical Form and returned to Stockton's Medical Adviser, for comments and a recommendation.

Applicants will be invited to attend a Preparation Training Course, which is the equivalent of four days training. (Applicants can undertake the course during either Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the process). The applicants are notified of the dates of preparation groups. All applicants are encouraged to attend preparation groups, however it is acknowledged that at times it may not be possible for all applicants to attend some of the sessions therefore in these extreme circumstances negotiation takes place. The preparation group sessions can include the children of the family if they are of an appropriate age. There is an evaluation and feedback at the end of the group, which contributes to the overall assessment process.

Once all checks are returned, a decision will be made about whether to accept an applicant onto Stage 2 of the process and the applicant will be notified of the decision within 10 working days.

The Fostering Service aim to complete Stage 1 of the process within 8 weeks.

- **Stage 2 Process**

Stage 2 is the assessment of suitability to foster, which consists of a minimum of six sessions with a social worker, with individual sessions for each applicant in addition. The topics covered include personal background/history/experiences, parenting experiences, birth children's views, the home environment, health and safety, including pet safety and applicant's ability to show understanding of material presented from group sessions. In addition to these sessions with the applicants and their family members, two personal referees are interviewed as well as former partners and adult children of the applicants.

When all the necessary material is available, the assessment report is completed by the social worker, using contributions from the applicants themselves at appropriate points. The report is quality assured by the Children's Fostering and Carer's Team Manager and is presented to the Fostering Panel which normally meets every two weeks. Applicants are invited and encouraged to attend the Panel Meeting where the assessment is discussed. The Panel considers the report and makes a recommendation regarding the application. Panel can recommend that applicants are approved, not approved or defer for further information. The recommendation is then approved (or not) by the Agency Decision Maker (Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Looked After Children). Applicants are then notified in writing of the outcome of their application within 5 days of the decision.

If applicants are not recommended as suitable to foster they then have 28 days from the qualifying determination decision to accept the qualifying determination, make representation to the fostering service or to apply to have their suitability to foster considered by the Independent Review Mechanism. The Fostering Service aims to have a decision on all applications within 8 months of application.

## **11. SUPPORT, TRAINING AND REVIEW**

- a. Once a foster carer has been approved by the Agency Decision Maker, they will complete a foster carer agreement, which is a contract between them and the Local Authority outlining expectations. They will receive on-going support from a supervising social worker who is a social worker within the Children's Fostering and Carer's Team. This social worker will visit regularly to supervise the work of the foster carer and help with training and development needs. The usual minimum frequency for supervisory visits is one visit every six weeks, however, many foster carers have a much higher level of contact than this. In certain situations the visiting frequency may be less frequent; this is usually in respect of those foster carers who have limited respite arrangements or where a permanent foster care arrangement has been identified as needing less supervision. Foster carers also have access to a support worker, who can provide support of a practical nature.
- b. In addition to the support provided by the Fostering Service social workers, the foster carers have access to a caravan at Haggerston Castle, allowing them short breaks. There are social events for foster carers and regular support and training events. The provision of a Leisure Card gives opportunities to use Stockton Council's leisure facilities at a reduced rate.

- c. As part of its commitment to the development of the foster care service, and increasing the skills of foster carers, Stockton Children's Fostering and Carer's Team aims to provide foster carers with training opportunities.
- d. The Fostering service has implemented the Children's Workforce Development Council's Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care in relation to foster care induction, training and development. The majority of carers have completed the standards. Support can be offered to complete the Standards on an individual or group basis.
- e. In addition to this in-house training and development, other training opportunities are available through departmental social care and safeguarding training as well as links with other fostering agencies and external providers.
- f. Foster carers are encouraged to obtain the QCF Level 3 in Child Care.
- g. All foster carers who are approved by Stockton Fostering Service have their approval reviewed at least once per year. The review will be conducted by an Independent Reviewing Officer and will involve face to face meetings with the foster carers. The review is also used as a means of giving foster carers the chance to give some feedback on the service they receive from the Department. All annual reviews are submitted to the Agency Decision for a decision in respect of ongoing suitability. Where annual reviews are presented to Fostering Panel for recommendation prior to Agency Decision Maker, the foster carer is invited and encouraged to attend.

## **Complaints and Commendations**

All service users, including children, foster carers and birth families are able to utilise the Local Authority's Complaints Procedure.

A 'Comments, Commendations and Complaints' leaflet, which gives details of how to make a complaint, is given to every prospective foster carer. The Children's Guide, which is given to all children who are looked after by the local authority, includes details of how to make a complaint.

Complaints are dealt with in four stages:

### **Early Resolution (pre-complaint)**

A person can make their complaint; over the telephone, e-mail, in writing or in person to a member of staff. Where a complaint is received by the Customer Relations & Information Governance Officer, the complainant will be contacted by a Senior Officer from Children's Services within 72 hours (3 working days) to better understand their dissatisfaction and attempt to find an early resolution to their complaint. Should it not be possible to resolve the issue at this stage, the complaint will be managed within the formal complaints process.

### **Complaint Resolution**

Where complaints progress to Stage 2, the investigating officer will consider the complaint and seek to find possible solutions. An advocate can be provided to assist a child making a complaint and any adult can refer themselves to the Advocacy Service at the Citizens Advice Bureau if required. A letter explaining the outcome is sent to the complainant within 10 working days.

### **Independent Investigation**

If a complainant is not satisfied at the end of Stage 2 they can choose to have the complaint investigated further. A member from the Customer Care Service will contact a complainant to

discuss in detail. An investigating officer, who will be a Senior Officer, is then appointed. In the case of a complaint under the Children Act, an independent person is also appointed.

The aim is to review the complaint within 20 working days, a resolution and a written response to the complainant should be sent within 25 working days, however dependent upon the nature of the complaint this timescale may be extended to 65 working days.

### **Complaints Review Panel**

If a complainant remains dissatisfied with any part of the written response from the Independent Investigation it is possible for the complaint to go to a review panel. A complainant will receive notification of how to request a review.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Service**

Service Managers and the Children's Service's Fostering Panel consider matters relating to the Placement of Children. It is the responsibility of Service Manager to agree a decision in respect of a child needing to come into our care, whilst Panel considers the appropriateness of matches for long term placements. The Panel consists of senior manager representatives and managers from the Review and Development Unit and the Fostering Service.

The Child Placement Panel considers themes from suitability to foster assessments as well as the foster carers' annual reviews.

The Fostering Service is inspected by Ofsted as part of the Local Authority Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services and the reports of these inspections are available to the general public on the website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide**

Service Managers and the Children's Service's Fostering Panel consider matters relating to the Placement of Children. It is the responsibility of Service Manager to agree a decision in respect of a child needing to come into our care, whilst Panel considers the appropriateness of matches for long term placements as well as suitability to foster. The Panel is chaired independently and consists of internal and external members; the quality and timeliness of work is monitored by the Panel and reported to the Agency Decision Maker (Assistant Director) on a 6 monthly basis. The Fostering Panel considers themes from suitability to foster assessments as well as the foster carers' annual reviews.

The Fostering Service is inspected by Ofsted as part of the Local Authority Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services and the reports of these inspections are available to the general public on the website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

### **Distribution of Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide**

#### **Staff**

The documents will be made available to staff.

All staff will be made aware of the documents via staff meetings and management meetings. The responsibility of dissemination of the Statement of Purpose lies with the Manager of the Children's Fostering and Carer's Team.

### Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted will receive a copy of the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide each time they inspect the service or when major changes have taken place. The responsibility for distribution will be with the Manager of the Children's Fostering and Carers' Service.

### Children

The Children's Guide will make children aware of the Statement of Purpose and will include a summary of the information within it. All children at the point of being looked after will receive a copy of the Children's Guide. It is the responsibility of child's Social Worker to ensure that they are given the Children's Guide.

### Foster Carers

Foster carers will be informed of the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide throughout the preparation and approval procedure. The Foster Carers' Handbook will refer to the documents and the way in which foster carers may access the Statement of Purpose. All foster carers will receive a copy of the Children's Guide.

### Parents

The parent's accommodation pack will refer to the Statement of Purpose and the way in which they may access it. It is the child's Social Worker's responsibility to ensure the parent is given an accommodation pack.

The Statement of Purpose can also be accessed via the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website.

## **Useful contacts**

### **Our contact details**

Stockton Children's Fostering and Carer's Team  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Queensway House  
Billingham  
TS23 2NL  
01642 526218  
Email: [child.placement@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:child.placement@stockton.gov.uk)

Rhona Bollands  
Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Looked After Children  
Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS18 1LD  
Tel: 01642 526297

Ofsted  
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Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD  
Tel – 0300 1231231  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Further information about fostering can be found at the following websites:**

**The Fostering Network**  
[www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)

**CoramBAAF Adoption and Fostering Academy**  
[www.corambaaf.org.uk](http://www.corambaaf.org.uk)

**GOV.UK**  
[www.gov.uk/foster-carers/becoming-a-foster-carer](http://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/becoming-a-foster-carer)

**Fosterline**  
<http://www.fosterline.info>

**BECOME (previously The Who Cares? Trust)**  
[www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)