

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Aberdeenshire Council Fostering Service is to ensure the recruitment, preparation, matching and support of Foster Families for children who require an alternative family placement for respite, temporary or permanent care.

Aberdeenshire Fostering Service will work to ensure that every child requiring a foster placement in Aberdeenshire will be valued and helped to realise their potential.

Aim

To provide secure and stable foster families that can provide opportunities for children to grow, develop and realise their potential.

Objectives

- Take forwards the development of an effective and integrated fostering service within Aberdeenshire's Child Care Service through improved planning based on identified assessment of need.
- Ensure effective partnership working.
- Provide a range of fostering resources to meet the needs of children requiring Foster Care.
- Provide a flexible and needs led service.
- Promote the protection and safe care of children in Foster Care.
- Ensure that Foster Carers are motivated, trained, skilled and supported to meet the needs of children in their care.
- Provide effective support to Foster Carers and their families.
- Ensure the provision of child centred best practice.
- Ensure the provision and development of equitable and accessible services.
- Ensure effective outcomes for children and young people requiring Foster Care.
- Ensure people interested in becoming Foster Carers will be welcomed without prejudice, responded to promptly, given clear information about training, assessment, approval and support.
- Prepare and support Foster Carers prior to and following the placement of children.
- Ensure that birth families will be treated fairly, openly and with respect when their children require the support of the Foster Care Service.
- Match children with suitable families and appropriately skilled families.

To achieve this Aberdeenshire will:

- Ensure that the service provided to children, Foster Carers, birth parents and families meets the legislative requirements and the National Care Standards for Foster Care and Family Placement Services
- Recruit a wide range of Foster Carers to meet the placement needs of the children in Aberdeenshire requiring foster families.
- Develop Private Fostering Services.
- Prepare, train and assess Foster Carers, to develop their abilities leading to the best possible outcomes for children.
- Provide a service to children who require Foster Care, assessing their needs and taking account of their views;
- Prepare reports for Aberdeenshire's Permanence Panel and Fostering Panel and other forums wherever required
- Support arrangements for contact between children in Foster Care and their families.
- Provide quality management of the workforce to ensure they have a clear direction, are skilled and supported.
- Operate the service within Aberdeenshire's Equality policies.
- Consult on the quality of the service and use feedback to inform development.

Principles

- Hold the child at the centre.
- Value and respect individuality and diversity.
- Collaborative working
- Clear and transparent decision making procedures.
- Consider and take account of the needs and wishes of the child;
- Consider and take account of the needs and wishes of the child's family
- Effective management and support.
- Continuous improvement

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