



## Match Foster Care

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### **Statement of Purpose**

**January 2021**

This statement has been produced in accordance with Regulation 3 of The Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2011, Standard 16 of the National Minimum Standards; Fostering Services 2011, Chapter 4 of The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 4: Fostering Services and any associated guidance and amendments.

This Statement sets out the Aims and Objectives of Match Foster Care and the Services and Facilities provided by the agency.

This Statement of Purpose is provided to Ofsted. Our Ofsted Registration Number is SC442843.

This Statement of Purpose is available on request to anyone working for the purposes of Match Foster Care, foster parents and potential foster parents, children placed with our foster parents, their birth parents and their Local Authorities.

Match Foster Care reviews and updates this Statement of Purpose as necessary, at least annually. It is available on Match Foster Care's website:

[www.matchfostercare.co.uk](http://www.matchfostercare.co.uk)

Ofsted Registration Number: SC442843

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## **1. Key Principles**

- We will always place the welfare of the child and young people at the centre of our work.
- We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, their families, our staff and foster parents. Everything we do must promote the safety and well-being of the children and young people we work with.
- We will always work in an open, honest and transparent way with every person who comes into contact with our agency.
- We will treat our foster parents as core members at the centre of the team of professionals around the children for whom they are caring.
- We will support our foster parents in a way that achieves only the best outcomes for children and young people, striving to improve fundamentally the life chances of children and young people in our care.
- We will treat all children and young people as individuals and take their unique needs, wishes and feelings into account in relation to the care they are receiving.
- We will listen closely to what our service users have to say about our service and feed back to them on how this has led to service development.
- We will ensure that all children and adults, regardless of age, race, disability, sexual orientation, sex, religion, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, language or class are treated equally and fairly and are fully included in the activities promoted by the agency.
- We will comply with all government legislation and good practice guidelines relating to our service provision.
- We will take care to make sure we always have sufficient resources to support any expansion of Match Foster Care so that the quality of the service is maintained.

## **2. Aims & Objectives**

- To provide a high quality fostering service which offers the best possible standards of care, safety and protection for children.
- To recruit, assess, support and train a diverse range of foster parents who can provide safe and secure care to children and young people with wide ranging needs.
- To ensure children and young people have stability and choice in placement and to ensure that children are carefully matched with foster parents who are capable of meeting their individual needs.
- To promote equal opportunities for children, foster parents and all staff.
- To ensure people who work in connection with Match Foster Care are suitable to work with children and young people and are managed, trained and supported to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- To ensure children and young people are supported in contributing to their Care Planning and to the service they receive from the Agency.
- To develop the skills and knowledge of foster parents so that they are able to support young people to prepare and build the skills necessary for living independently.
- To ensure appropriate records are kept in relation to foster parents, children and young people placed or referred to the Match Foster Care and that these are kept securely in line with our legal responsibilities.
- In line with the Every Child Matters outcomes, Match Foster Care will ensure that children are cared for in a way that promotes their ability to:
  1. Be Healthy
  2. Make a Positive Contribution
  3. Stay Safe
  4. Achieve Economic Well-Being
  5. Enjoy and Achieve
- To use the Secure Base Model (Beek & Schofield, 2004) to support our work with foster parents, children and young people.

- To ensure all services delivered by Match Foster Care are based on sound social work principles and good practice, in accordance with the standards set out by Social Work England.
- To recruit a range of people from diverse backgrounds to ensure that we can best match the religious, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, physical, emotional and social needs of any children or young people referred to our service.
- To ensure the assessment of prospective parents is robust and undertaken by suitably qualified social workers, ensuring the highest standards of care and safety.
- To ensure placements meet all of the individual needs of children and young people and will not discriminate because of disability, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, sex or class.
- To support each child and young person to achieve a positive sense of their own identity.
- To ensure placements offer children and young people the highest levels of stability and continuity of care.
- To maintain low caseloads for staff to allow them to provide sufficient support and supervision to foster parents and children.
- To ensure all children and young people are supported to feel “part of a family” rather than a “Looked After Child in a placement”.
- To ensure that robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are implemented to support positive outcomes for children and young people.

### **3. Company Structure & Roles**

Match Foster Care Ltd is an Independent Fostering Provider. It is a Private Limited Company registered under the Companies Act 1985.

**Company Number: 07366358**

In accordance with the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989, Match Foster Care has a Board of Directors, which meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the corporate governance of the agency.

- **Managing Director/Responsible Individual/Agency Decision Maker** – Carrie Marsh
- **Director/Financial Manager** – Simon Marsh
- **Head of Social Work (Registration pending)** – Nick Dunster
- **Team Manager Stoke** – Jim Bates
- **Team Manager Droitwich** – Sian Astill
- **Head of Quality Assurance** – Jacqueline Dunster
  
- **The Team**

The team at Match comprises those above and a multi-disciplinary group of qualified, skilled and experienced professionals. It includes Senior Supervising Social Workers, Supervising Social Workers, a Registered Nurse, Education Workers, a Therapeutic Practitioner, Fostering Support Workers and Administrative staff.

#### **4. Services Provided.**

1. Emergency and short-term foster placements
  2. Long-term and permanent foster placements
  3. Respite placements
- Match Foster Care employs Fostering Support Workers who can undertake direct work with children and young people, including work on their Life Story, wishes and feelings, and emotions. They are able to provide direct support to foster parents.
  - Match Foster Care employs a Registered Nurse who is able to undertake direct work with children and young people on all aspects of their health. She supports foster parents in meeting more complex health and medical needs of children. She coordinates group work with young people on aspects of their health. With the agreement of the Local Authority, she is able to undertake children and young people's Health Reviews.
  - Match Foster Care is able to support individual Life Skills work with young people who are preparing to live independently.

- Match Foster Care is able to support supervision of contact where this is in the best interests of the children and agreed by the Local Authority.
- Match employs an experienced therapeutic practitioner who monitors the emotional needs of all our children to provide practical parenting advice and support to our foster parents.
- Match employs education workers who are able to provide direct support to foster children and support and training to foster parents. They support the education planning process and monitor progress.
- Match Foster Parent provides a large number of activities and events each year for children, young people, foster parents, children who foster and wider families. These provide opportunities to build supportive relationships for both foster parents and children.
- Each foster parent is provided with support to access up to 14 nights paid respite per annum in line with the child or young person's needs.
- All foster parents and Local Authorities have 24-hour support from a qualified social worker.
- Match Foster Care undertakes careful matching, demonstrating how the foster parent will meet an individual child's needs. This process identifies areas where additional support is required for the foster parent to meet the needs of the specific child.

## **5. Comments & Complaints**

- Match Foster Care inform all children and young people about the comments and complaints procedure. The Children's and Young People's Guides provide a list of numbers and appropriate helplines, including details of the child or young person's social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer, Ofsted and the Children's Commissioner for England.
- Match Foster Care advises foster parents and other professionals on how to make a comment or complaint about the agency. This policy is made available to all staff of the agency and, upon request, to others wishing to make a comment or complaint.

## **6. Records**

- All records are stored securely. Match Foster Care share information in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.