



Fostering Service Aims and Objectives



Statement of Purpose

Aberdeenshire Council's Fostering Service recruits, assesses, supports and supervises Foster Carers for children and young people, who require alternative family based care.

Children can require to be cared for in a Fostering household for a few days or for the remainder of their childhood until they are ready to move on to independent living. Where possible and appropriate, the Fostering Service makes every attempt to place brothers and sisters together in the same Fostering household.

The vision of the Scottish Government's Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is that children and young people should be valued by ensuring that they are Safe; Nurtured; Healthy; Achieving; Active; Respected & Responsible; and Included. These are called the 'Wellbeing Indicators'.

The Fostering Service is one of Aberdeenshire Council's specialist services available to children and young people as part of the Getting It Right approach, providing timely and proportionate support when children and young people can no longer live with their own family.

The Fostering Service works hard to make sure that every child placed with Foster Carers is valued and helped to realise their potential by concentrating on promoting the 'Wellbeing Indicators' and the five principles underpinning the Health and Social Care Standards; dignity and respect, compassion, be included, responsive care and support and wellbeing.

The Fostering Service is also committed to continuous improvement and best practice, in order to promote good outcomes for children and young people. We do this by listening to children, young people, their families and our foster families about the service we provide and by seeking their views on what we could do better.

AIMS

- Provision of secure and stable foster families offering opportunities for children to grow, develop and realise their potential.
- Provision of an effective and integrated Fostering Service within Aberdeenshire's Children's Services.
- Provision of a range of fostering resources to meet the needs of children requiring alternative family based care.
- Promotion of the protection and safe care of children in foster care.
- Ensuring that foster carers and their families are motivated, trained, skilled and supported to meet the needs of children in their care.
- Promotion of effective outcomes for children and young people in Foster care.
- To respond promptly to recruitment enquiries by providing clear information about training, assessment, approval and support.
- To regard birth families fairly, openly and with respect when their children require the support of the Fostering Service.

Objectives

- Ensure the service provided to children, foster carers, birth parents and families meets the legislative requirements and the Health and Social Care Standards.
- Preparation, training and assessment of foster carers, to develop abilities commanding the best possible outcomes for children.
- Provision of quality support and supervision with clear direction to the fostering workforce, offering opportunities for skills development.
- Operation of the service within the legislative framework, including the Health and Social Care Standards and Aberdeenshire's policies and procedures.
- Consult on the quality of the service and use feedback to inform development of the Fostering Service.
- Promote the participation of children, young people, their families and foster families in service development by obtaining their views.