

Statement of Purpose



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A footprint makes an impression.

At Footprints, we recognise everyone is unique and individual. We want to be there for every child and young person entrusted to our care. We are fully committed to offering them care, support and encouragement in order for them to make steps towards a brighter future.

We believe we can make a difference.



This Statement of Purpose has been developed in accordance with appropriate fostering regulations, statutory guidance and National Minimum Standards.

- The Care Standards Act 2000
- The Fostering Services Regulations 2011
- The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services 2011
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services
- Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services July 2013

Aims and Objectives



To offer a high quality service to approved fostering households and children placed in their care.

To offer personalised support and develop strong links with local authorities and specialist knowledge of other partnership agencies and resources.

To recruit a high calibre of foster carers to ensure children receive the best care.

To recruit foster carers from diverse backgrounds to reflect the needs of the children looked after.

Appropriately match with foster carers who have the right skills and experience to meet their needs.

To offer a high standard of physical and emotional care and a safe and secure environment in which children are protected from abuse and harm.

To develop our foster carers giving them opportunities to enhance their personal development and have a direct input into running "their" organisation.

To recognise each child's potential and work with our carers to ensure that they make progress whilst they are in our care.

To be flexible and adaptable responding to feedback from children and young people, foster carers, Local Authorities and other stakeholders ensuring we deliver the service people want.

To promote anti-discriminatory practice by training and challenging practices to ensure children can be protected from prejudice.

Services and Facilities



Footprints offers a full range of foster care placements including:-

- Short-term fostering for periods of one day to many months while plans are being made for children
- Long-term fostering for children who will not return home but need to maintain strong links with their birth family
- Permanent fostering for children who need to stay with a family for the rest of their childhood
- Fostering for teenagers who are struggling with the changes and pressures of adolescence
- Placements for siblings needing to be placed either together or separately
- Placements for unaccompanied asylum seekers/minors in families where cultural and religious diversity are actively celebrated
- Emergency placements
- Parents with babies

We are happy to discuss any prospective placements needed and will only offer placements where we have foster carers with the relevant skills and expertise to match the needs of the child.



Status and Constitution

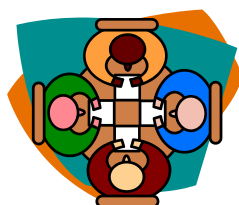


Footprints Foster Care Ltd was established in April 2012 as a small independent fostering agency aiming to offer a high quality, personalised service to local children. The agency is based in Bournemouth and covers Bournemouth and the surrounding areas of Poole, Dorset and some parts of Hampshire. In October 2024, the ownership of Footprints Foster Care Ltd changed and is now part of the Sunbeam Fostering Group.

Footprints Foster Care Ltd is registered with Ofsted, under the Care Standards Act 2000. Ofsted regulates Independent Fostering Agencies to ensure they meet the requirements of the Fostering Regulation 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services. They also ensure providers delivery high quality outcomes to children and young people and provide information about the quality of service . Following the inspection in July 2024 , Footprints Foster Care Ltd received a "Good" overall judgment.

Footprints Foster Care Ltd is a limited company and is registered with Companies House (Registration No: 07879639).

Management Structure



Footprints Foster Care Ltd is a part of Sunbeam Fostering Group. Sunbeam was established in 2000 by three Directors , now with combined social work experience amounting to over 90 years. Karamjit Dhull, Muhammad Haneef and Naseem Ahmed are the company directors for Footprints Foster Care Ltd. In addition Footprints Foster Care Ltd is further supported by Seamus Jennings (*Head of Operations*) and Nicola Westley (*Business Development Manager*) from Sunbeam Fostering Group.

The day to day running of the company, including monitoring of practice to ensure compliance with regulations and standards , will be carried about by the Responsible Individual and the Registered Manager.

Qualifications and Experience of Staff



Vanda Leigh, Responsible Individual and Agency Decision Maker

Vanda has worked in the social carer field for 30 years. She qualified as a social worker in 2000 and completed her post qualifying child care aware in 2005; she is registered with Social Work England. Vanda has worked in various field work teams and residential child care, where she was an integral part of the therapeutic team. Vanda has extensive knowledge of working for the Local authority fostering team, as a supervising social worker. She has been actively involved in the recruitment and assessment of foster carers, and was a practice supervisor for students studying for their social work degrees. Vanda has experience in learning and development; this has included the design and delivery of the interagency safeguarding training, for the Local authority. Vanda completed the NVQ Level 5 in Leadership for Health and Social Care in 2016.

Stephanie Omojevverha, Registered Manager

Stephanie has worked in the social care field for over 25 years. She qualified as a social worker in 1996 and is registered with Social Work England. Stephanie has experience working in various field work teams and residential child care. She has also worked as a social care inspector for NCSC, CSCI and Ofsted and has an extensive knowledge of social care regulation for children's services, including fostering providers. Stephanie completed the NVQ Level 5 in Leadership for Health and Social Care in 2016.

Barbara Winwood, Practice Manager – Quality Assurance and Training

Barbara qualified as Social Worker in 1999 and is registered with Social Work England. Until 2008 she supported young people and adults as project manager, social worker and in a residential setting. For nearly 10 years after this Barbara was a Supervising Social Worker for a Local Authority and then worked independently as Form F Assessor, Independent Reviewing Officer, Member of Fostering Panel and allegations advisor. In 2018 Barbara completed her certification as Life Coach and is registered with the Coaching Association. She joined the Footprints Team in July 2020 as a supervising social worker but has progressed to supporting the management team particularly with a focus on quality assurance and training. Barbara completed the NVQ Level 5 in Leadership for Health and Social Care in January 2024.

Kayleigh Smith, Practice Manager

Kayleigh qualified as a social worker at Bournemouth University in 2014 and is registered with Social Work England. Prior to becoming a social worker, Kayleigh volunteered with

Home Start, providing guidance and support to vulnerable families and was a sessional worker for the local authority, which involved supporting children in need and supervising contacts. Kayleigh also did some work with the young carers group. Kayleigh began her social work career working for the local authority in the childcare team and held cases consisting of child in need, child protection and looked after children. Kayleigh also worked in the looked after team, working specifically with teenagers. This gave Kayleigh a sound understanding and experience of policies and procedures involving a child in care. Kayleigh wanted to utilise her knowledge and experience, whilst being able to provide increased support to a smaller caseload, therefore moved to Footprints in 2018. Kayleigh is currently undertaking the Practice Educator course.

Vicky Eccleston, Supervising Social Worker

Vicky qualified as a Social Worker from Bournemouth University in 2022 and is registered with Social Work England. Prior to Social Work Vicky qualified as a Veterinary nurse and worked in busy charity-run animal hospitals in London, first for the Blue Cross and then for the RSPCA. Her job role involved working with animals as well as supporting people in need by providing veterinary care to their pets. Vicky later moved to the New Forest where she worked in private veterinary practice.

Prior to embarking on her Social Work degree Vicky gained qualifications in the Children and Young Peoples workforce. Vicky worked for over 12 years as a keyworker in a small charity-run preschool exclusively for children with additional needs. Vicky worked closely with the children, their families, and professionals to provide support and achieve the best outcomes.

During her Social Work degree, Vicky undertook a placement at a local secondary school, working alongside the in-school Social Worker during the height of the Covid pandemic, dealing with unique challenges. Vicky completed her final placement at Footprints and went on to Join Footprints as a Newly Qualified Social Worker and is looking forward to growing within the team. Vicky successfully completed her ASYE year in September 2023.

Katie Summers, Supervising Social Worker

Katie completed her social work degree at Bournemouth University in 2024 and is registered with Social Work England. Prior to completing her degree, Katie gained experience of working with both adults and children with learning disabilities; Katie worked with adults in a supported living environment and went on to work with children with learning disabilities aged 4-11 within a service that offered breaks for parents and carers over weekends.

During her social work degree, Katie completed a placement in a supported living accommodation for teenagers aged 16-18 who were experiencing homelessness. Katie's role was to support the young people with daily tasks to promote and encourage independence skills. Katie completed her final placement at Footprints Foster Carer and went on to join Footprints as a Newly Qualified Social Worker in August 2024.

Julia Keleghar, Administrator

Julia has provided administration support for a wide range of organisations for over 30 years. These include publishing companies, an architectural practice, Volunteer Centre and the Citizens Advice Bureau . Julia has previous experience in the recruitment and organisation of training for volunteers . Her first introduction to the social care field was when she joined the Footprints team in October 2018 . More recently Julia has been involved in organising mandatory training for Foster Carers and in the recruitment process for new applicants.

Carolyn Parker, Administrator

Carolyn 's background has been largely providing administration for a local authority Occupational Health service and the RNLI, as well as a plumbing & heating company and spending some time working in retail. She joined Footprints in November 2022 to provide additional admin cover as the team grows. Carolyn is enjoying learning all about fostering whilst supporting the social workers with annual reviews and assisting with recruiting new foster carers.

Natasha Steele, Support Worker

Tasha joined the Footprints Foster Care team at the start of August 2020. She has had a vast range of jobs, from retail to office. But started working as a Youth Support Worker 7 years ago as well as being a Teaching Assistant in a primary school. Tasha role is to support our foster carers and children in a range of ways on a need 's basis such as individual sessional work, enabling children to give feedback and encouraging participation, supporting children's activities in school holidays.



Complaints and Outcomes



Footprints has a comprehensive complaints procedure that is available in a variety of formats suitable for children, young people, foster carers, parents and professionals.

Children can also contact the Children's Commissioner for free advice, support and information on Freephone: 0800 528 0731 or use the website www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand

As an organisation we welcome complaints as a way of putting things right and improving our service. We continue to review our practice and implement changes policies and procedures where necessary to promote better outcomes for the children in our care.

Procedures for recruiting, approving, training, supporting and reviewing carers



Assessment of Prospective Foster Carers

In assessing prospective foster carers, Footprints follows the Fostering Services Regulations, England (2011), National Minimum Care Standards Act (2000), The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and BAAF and Fostering Network good practice guidance.

Following an initial enquiry, prospective applicants are visited at home so they can further discuss fostering for Footprints. Once a formal application is received, a competency-based assessment with the prospective carer, based on the BAAF Coram Process is undertaken. This assessment follows a two stage process. The first stage includes undertaking statutory and best practice checks; these include a number of formal checks with agencies such as the police, health and education. Personal references and home health and safety assessments are also undertaken. The second stage consists of an assessment undertaken by a qualified social worker. During, the assessment, prospective carers attend an initial training course in Skills to Foster. This training is an essential element in the preparation of foster carers for the task of looking after children and young people.

Approval of Foster Carers

The assessment process culminates in a written report which is then read and signed by the prospective carer and presented to an independent panel for review. The panel reviews the form, and asks relevant questions to enable them to make a recommendation.

The recommendation of Panel is sent to the Decision Maker for the agency. The Agency Decision Maker has the final decision on approval of foster carers.

On approval, a supervising social worker will be allocated to support the new foster carer with their task.

Training Foster Carers

All foster carers are expected to participate in locally-delivered core training which is essential to undertaking the fostering task, and are required to complete Training, Support and Development standards. A comprehensive programme of additional training is also available for foster carers. This provides training in issues specific to the young people foster carers may be supporting as well as offering excellent personal development opportunities.

Supporting Foster Carers

All foster carers are allocated a supervising social worker, who has the responsibility of managing and supporting the foster carer. Monthly formal supervision is complemented by support groups, automatic membership of Foster Talk and access to daily duty and out of hours services.

All foster carers will receive a Foster Care Handbook which details policies, information about fostering terms and conditions, guidance about requirements concerning care and control of children, contacting the Out of Hours Service, record keeping, the complaints procedure, and child protection procedures. Every foster carer will be expected to sign a Foster Carer Agreement upon approval, in line with Schedule 5 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011.

Foster carers can also access a range of other services to support themselves and the children in placement. These services are listed in the foster carers Handbook and are known to the supervising social worker. In addition, foster carers are encouraged to participate in informal support and social opportunities organised by other foster carers.

Reviewing Foster Carers

Formal supervision with foster carers and their social worker takes place a minimum of every 4 weeks and includes reviews of foster carers' record keeping and the outcomes they are delivering for the children in their care.

The agency will undertake at least 2 unannounced visits to the foster home per year. There is a formal annual review of each fostering household carried out by an Independent Reviewing Officer. Alongside this, Footprints procedures indicate situations in which further reviews should be undertaken, for example, in the case of a complaint, or if a change in approval is recommended.

