

Statement of Purpose

Part of the Next Step Fostering Group



The Fostering Services Regulations (England) 2011:	Reg 3(1)a,b
Relevant NMS:	16

Since 1988, Next Step has been committed to providing the best possible outcomes for children in care through its various services.

In 1995, Next Step responded to the need for more families to care for children and the fostering service was developed. Next Step has been providing high quality fostering services ever since, making positive, nurturing foster placements with professional foster families. By providing our foster carers with professional support, monitoring and training that is creative, comprehensive, regular and personalised, Next Step aims to provide a complete fostering service, tuned to both the needs of young people and their foster families. In order to achieve this the agency seeks feedback from all stakeholders in order to inform the ongoing development of the service.

Next Step is a child centred agency and we promote those individuals who have a child's interest firmly at heart to be foster carers. We ask that our carers have the insight and skills to develop their foster care to meet the required standards of professional excellence.

Next Step recognises that many of the children we look after will not be able to live within their birth families for much of their childhood and therefore we aim for our families to facilitate contact in a positive professional yet sensitive manner, to ensure family bonds can be sensitively maintained.

The Purpose:

To give young people in care the stable and nurturing childhood they deserve so they may grow into confident, positive members of society.

The Business:

Recruiting, training and supporting professional foster carers who are committed to providing young people with positive, nurturing family homes and positive childhood experiences.

The Values:

Working with honesty, respect, understanding, Integrity, dedication and compassion, all children should be treated as individuals and supported to achieve their full potential. The service enables stakeholder feedback through the Children's Champion role, foster carer consultation groups, staff meetings and attendance at provider events hosted by local authority customers. The service uses its feedback to continue to improve services.

The Services:

To ensure the agency provides the best services possible to the young people it looks after we offer a range of support services to complement the core fostering task. These include a counsellor for foster carers, a Children's champion to provide advocacy and activities to young people, including the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, parent and child fostering, children with disabilities fostering and fostering for unaccompanied asylum seekers and a comprehensive training portfolio to cover those services and the broader remit of the fostering task.

Date of Policy review:

18/06/13 (DL and SMT members GS, NJM, LAW – Amendments made by LAB)

27/08/13 (DL and SMT members RJS, NJM, LAW – Amendments made by LAB)

16/09/13 (DL, LAW, RJS. Amendments made LAB).

6/11/13 DL

9/6/14 DL

30/09/14 DL

15/09/15 NM and DL

04/05/17 (DL – Amendments made by LAT)