



# **Children of All Nations**

## **Statement Of Purpose**

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## **Introduction**

Children of All Nations aims to provide safe, healthy and nurturing placements for children in our care. Our primary focus is to safeguard and promotes their welfare and assist them to achieve their full potential. This document sets out how this will achieved.

## **Aims and Principles**

Children of All Nations will promote the welfare of the child. Child focused service provisions; integrity and good management underpin the agencies practice, policies and procedures. The prime responsibility of Children of All Nations is to provide a high quality and effective placement service, and to recruit and retain foster carers for children who are unable to live with their own families. Our work is governed by the following principles:

1. We will seek the best possible match for all children with the foster families that reflect their ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.
2. It is the right of every fostered child to be brought up with the knowledge and understanding of their family origin and ancestry.
3. We will work with local authorities for the benefit of the children placed in our care in partnership with our foster carers and associated agencies.
4. In planning for children we will ensure that their wishes, feelings and needs are recognised and taken into account whenever possible.
5. We will strive to ensure that our management structure and staffing reflects the diversity of the local community, in respect of racial, ethnic, cultural and religious background.
6. The management team, staff and panel members will include expertise and personal experience of fostering, social services, education and other social care disciplines.
7. In providing services for children and families from all racial backgrounds, Children of All Nations will seek to eliminate discrimination in its work and practice, and endeavour to promote equality of opportunity and anti –discriminatory practice.
8. We actively listen to the feedback given to us by the children in our care, foster carers, staff and other stakeholders and where possible ensure that this shapes the future development of the agency.

## **Objectives**

Our main objectives are as follows:

- To promote an accessible, timely, sensitive and transparent response to all enquiries and referrals
- To provide a service that takes into account the specific needs of children and young people on an individual basis
- To recruit, train and support foster carers to develop the skills required to meet the needs of the children and young people referred to us
- To establish a comprehensive advertising campaign in order to attract carers, particularly, those that are able to meet the needs of children with challenging behaviour, large sibling groups, children with disabilities and learning difficulties
- To involve and consult with young people in the development of their care plans on a continuous basis.
- To ensure that young people and their foster parents are consulted with and contribute to the future service development of the agency

## **System Objectives**

The system objectives of this agency are as follows:

- To provide a continued system service via our administrative team
- To ensure all staff and management are up to date with information technology
- To enhance the quality of our IT information system to ensure that the information contained meets the requirements of local authorities and Ofsted
- To provide on-going comprehensive IT training and support to foster carers and staff to promote quality of information and recording
- To ensure timely, accurate and effective information sharing with children, carers, staff, local authorities, Ofsted and Partnership agencies

## **Overview of Service Protocols**

### **1.) Assessment of the Needs of the Child/Young Person**

A full assessment of the child/young person will usually have been undertaken by the Local Authority in most cases prior to a placement being agreed. Our Foster Parents, Social Workers, and the Therapists will contribute to all assessments that are required following an initial placement, and re-assess the child/young person's needs on a regular basis, or as a result of any changes in their circumstances.

### **2.) Care Plans and Reviews**

Children of all Nations has invested in Social eCare software and hard copy supported systems to ensure monitoring, quality assurance considerations and that statutory reviews, medical etc. are carried out in a timely manner and any change of circumstances are notified and recorded.

### **3.) Matching Carers with Children or Young People**

Children of All Nations will provide planned, emergency and respite placements, which can be long or a short term. Each child/young person placed in the care Children of All Nations will be matched with a carer who is suitably qualified to meet their needs.

No placement will be made unless it is apparent that the needs of the child/young person can be met by our foster parents.

If Children of All Nations do not have the appropriate foster parents to match the needs of the child/young person referred a placement will not be offered. If there is a 'part' match and the LA want to utilise the placement, Children of All Nations will identify any 'gaps' and record how those gaps are going to be met and by whom.

The partnership between the placing authority and Children of All Nations is important, and Children of All Nations' employees, and foster parents will work closely will all involved with the care of the child/young person in a positive open way, which ensures that the welfare of the child/ young person remains paramount, whilst also ensuring that statutory obligations are met.

The child/young person will be given where possible, the opportunity to have contact or meet carer(s) and their household prior to going into the placement.

#### **4.) Enriching, Enabling Learning Environment**

Children of All Nations support the view expressed in the Children Act 1989 and follow the guidance as set out and taken from the Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2011.

The Children are best looked after within their own families, with both parents playing important roles in their upbringing.

In individual cases where this is not possible, or not in the best interest of the child/young person, we offer family placement which are designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child/young person.

Children of All Nations will offer each child/young person a supportive, stimulating caring place in a family home, which will promote the welfare and will work in partnership with the placing authority, social workers and all stakeholders involved in the care of the child/young person.

Children of All Nations will promote contact with birth parents, siblings, close relatives and members of their communities, whilst taking into consideration the interest of child/young person.

Children of All Nations will provide carer(s) who will be available on a full-time basis to care for each child/young person.

Each child/young person, placed with Children of All Nations will be given a copy of the agency's complaint procedure.

#### **5.) Birth Parent(s)**

Children of All Nations will work with parents, on issues such as contact and consider their wishes where it is consistent with the welfare of the child/young person and the child/young person's Care Plan.

We support our foster parents, by offering:

- Frequent supportive supervision with their supervising social worker;
- Monitoring supervision meetings
- Up to date and relevant training
- Regular Support group meetings (to enable foster parents to share experiences and empower and support each other). There will also be scope for specialised support groups

- Men's Support Group
- Children (Foster and Birth) Support Group to be managed by one of our young
- At least 1 week paid respite per year (which will be reviewed as and when necessary);
- 24 Hour **Out of Hours** telephone support including bank holidays and evenings
- An allowance that covers the cost of looking after a child/ young person
- Annual reviews
- Unannounced visits
- Plan activities and outings

Foster carer's receive ongoing training on specific subjects like the Complaints Procedure, Child Protection (Safeguarding), Contact, Behaviour Management, Allegation and Accusation, Valuing and Diversity.

## **6.) Promoting Good Health Care**

Children of All Nations' philosophy is that every child/young person has a right to good medical and health care that meets their physical, emotional and social growth.

Children of All Nations will assist the placing authority in their statutory duty and responsibilities in order to promote good health and medical care for every child/ young person placed with the agency by monitoring each child/ young person's health care plans.

Each child/young person placed with the agency will be registered with a GP and dentist and have access to appropriate health care. Our foster parents will provide a healthy diet and information essential for promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Foster Parents will ensure that statutory yearly medical reviews are undertaken.

The child/young person's consent to health care and treatment will be actively sought (according to age and understanding) to enable their participation in decisions regarding their health needs. In line with the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, Children will understand their health needs and will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own standard of health, supported by their foster parents. The Agency will ensure that there is a written updated health record for each child/young person placed. An up-to-date copy will be maintained on the child's file.

The agency will work in partnership with health authority, placing authority and foster parents to ensure that the child/young person's health needs are appropriately met in a timely fashion.

## **7.) Education**

Children of All Nations consider the child/young person's right to good education to be paramount in enabling them to extract maximum benefit from the life chances and accordingly the agency will work in partnership with placing authority, foster parents, schools and other education providers to ensure that all educational needs and abilities are catered for.

Links will be made with schools, teachers and educational resources, to ensure that the child/ young person are supported within the school system. Foster parents will be fully involved in the young person's educational life and will attend parent evenings, open days and concerts as would any 'good parent'.

Our aim is to encourage a positive learning experience, and will consult educational psychologists to assist those with learning difficulties to enhance their learning. If a child/young person is excluded from school/college the Agency will endeavour to facilitate ongoing education and negotiate access to desired additional resources.

## **8.) Parent and Child**

We recognise the complex issues which can lead to young people having entering into parenthood whilst they are still young people having entering into parenthood whilst they are young themselves and lacking some of the maturity and life experiences necessary to enable good parenting. All young parents will be offered help and support from our foster parents (parent and child trained/approved) with 2-3 hours one to one recorded parenting skills and development support by our foster parents or 'parent and child' trained support workers.

The aim of Children of All Nations is to work in partnership with the parents/guardians and the placing authority, to meet the needs of parents and their babies in a fostering environment which allows for monitoring, assessment and development of the parent(s) to care for their child/children, whilst developing their own independence and knowledge.

## **9.) Sibling Groups**

It is our aim to ensure that sibling relationships are maintained through siblings being placed in the same household or households within close proximity of each other. Children of all Nations will ensure outings/activities for 'separated' siblings placed within the Agency.

## **10.) Supervised Contact with Birth Families**

Children of All Nations are able and willing to work directly with parents/guardians regarding contact and consider their wishes where it is consistent with the welfare and in the best interest of the child/young person, in line with the LAC plan and local authority permissions.

Children of All Nations' treats all parents/guardians with the respect and as individuals without being judgemental, and observes any court orders and other legal instruments pertaining to the care of a child/young person placed with the agency.

Where the care plan is to rehabilitate the child/young person back to his/her parents, Children of All Nations will work with and feasibly support this plan.

The Children of All Nations office has a small contact room that is available for contact. We can also supply contact supervision and report(s) as required.

## **11.) Children with Disabilities and Special Needs**

Children of All Nations are able to offer a limited number of placements for children with special needs/disabilities with carer(s) who are specialist trained and/or experienced.

## **12.) Adoption**

Children of All Nations endeavour in the future to assess parents who are interested in adoption, to offer to the placing authorities.

## **13.) Aftercare**

Limited planned work will be undertaken by our support workers and foster parents with a young person leaving foster care. This will be aimed at preparing them for independent living in the community.

Children of All Nations is able to offer a young person the opportunity to stay in contact should he/she wish to do so, and will continue to offer practical support and assistance for a limited period in dealing with practical issues such as getting the right benefits.

In this Children of All Nations are guided by the Children Act 1989 which stipulates that a young person is entitled to help advice and assistance in aftercare.

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