Children's Guide to Affinity Fostering Services Ltd

Statement of Purpose

Who or what is Affinity Fostering Services Ltd?

It is a private company that only works in Fostering.

Why is it called Affinity Fostering Services?

The staff chose this name because Affinity means “a natural liking for or an understanding of someone or something”. In our case, it is a liking for working with children and young people to provide them with nurturing Foster Carers who will keep them safe and help achieve the best outcomes.

The Staff at Affinity Fostering chose their jobs because they believe and trust that Affinity will do what we say: “Enhancing and Empowering Young People’s Lives”.

What is a Statement of Purpose?

It's like a 'public' promise that is made by a company. The Government Regulations say that Affinity Fostering have to clearly outline how our service is managed and the systems which we have set in place to recruit, train, supervise and support our foster carers and young people. The Statement of Purpose contains all of this.

So, who is the Statement of Purpose written for?

The Statement of Purpose is for:

* children and young people;
* relatives if they want a copy;
* prospective and approved fostering families;
* Social Workers working with Affinity Fostering;
* Councillors;
* Fostering Panel members;
* Office for Standards in Children’s Services Education and Skills (Ofsted);
* Any member of public who ask for a copy.

Is this the whole of the Statement of Purpose?

No this is a short guide for children and young people, but you can have a full one if you would like one. Just ask your Foster Carer or Affinity Social Worker. You can also find it on our website homepage (at the bottom) @ www.affinityfostering.com

What does Affinity want to get out of Fostering?

The Staff team work together to ensure that:-

* All children are safe and well looked after;
* All children have the opportunity to live within an environment of warmth, stability and consistency;
* All children grow up as part of a stable and loving family;
* As you grow up and your needs change that the services you receive meets those needs;
* We work in close partnership with your social workers and their managers;
* We provide consistent support, availability, and supervision to our Foster Carers to help them be the best that they can be;
* Everyone is treated fairly.

What does Affinity Fostering, and their Foster Carers actually do?

Affinity recruits and trains Foster Carers and then works with different local authorities, ensuring that the children who are unable to live at home are matched carefully with our fostering families.

Some Foster Carers have their own children, while some do not. They can live in cities, the countryside or even right near the beach.

Our Foster Carers may look after a child for just a short amount of time or could even be for many years.

Affinity Fostering’s Foster Carers have their own Social Worker, just like children in foster care do. The Foster Carer’s Social Worker, from Affinity Fostering, gives them help, support and advice and will talk to, and work with, the Social Worker of the children in placement.

Affinity Fostering have to work within the laws and regulations set by the Government. The most important thing we do is to make sure children are kept safe and well.

So, who actually works at Affinity Fostering?

See our Family Tree at the end of this document, we have put pictures on there so you can see who we are and how to get in contact with us.

Can I complain if I don t like something?

Of course, everyone has a right to be listened to and to say if something is not right for them. Look at your “Welcome Letter” and Young Person’s Handbook it has all the details in there.

Do Foster Carers have to go to learn how to Foster?

Yes, they attend lots of training so they can help the children and young people placed with them.

They are people who like to work with children and want to help in any way they can.

All Foster Carers have to have a 'Review' just like children who are being fostered, so everyone knows how they are getting along fostering.

Does Affinity Fostering have to take exams like we do in school?

Not really, but OFSTED are inspectors who come and look at everything we do, on a regular basis. Like your teacher will look at your work and give you a mark. The inspector (there may be more than one) will do a big report which can be shared with everyone. If you would like to read it let your Social Worker or Foster Carer know. Our last Inspector said that we are Outstanding, this is like your teacher giving you 10 out of 10!

Affinity Fostering do have to make sure that they get better at what they do all the time and not just relax. Part of this is called Quality Assurance. To help improve our service, Affinity will write to you, your carers and your Social Worker and ask 'how are we doing'? The answers they get will then be used to help them make changes and do things in a better way. Please do fill in any questionnaire and give your feedback. You don’t have to wait to do this- we would love to hear from you at any point. This can be done in lots of different ways- through your Social Worker, your Foster Carer, your Affinity Social Worker or Affinity’s Participation and Support Workers. Below on our family tree also has contact information for everyone who works for Affinity for you to use, if you would like to. Affinity also have our own young person’s council called “Voices”, which is a great forum to work closely with Affinity and let us know what really is important to you. Affinity have also helped the Voices group with their campaigns!

**THANK YOU**