



eastern
fostering
services

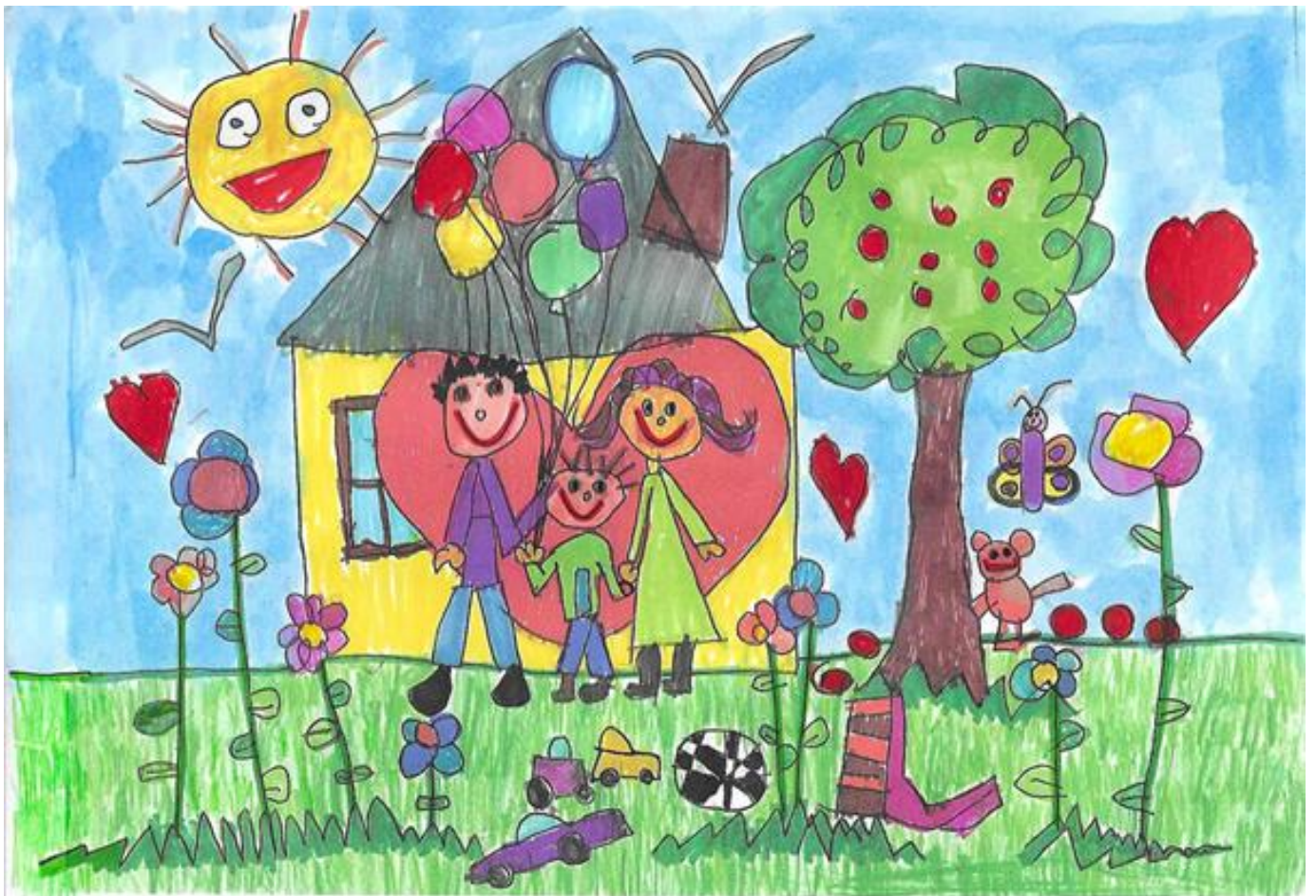
EFS Statement of Purpose For Children and Young People

Date of Review/Revision	Review/Revision Number	Reviewed/Revised By
July 2022	1	Eleanor Newman
December 2022	2	Eleanor Newman
May 2023	3	Eleanor Newman
September 2023	4	Eleanor Newman
May 2026	5	Eleanor Newman

Statement of Purpose – why are we here?

Our Mission Statement *“In one hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”* Forest E Witcraft

We have chosen this quote as our mission statement because we felt that it sums up what Eastern Fostering Services is all about. A mission statement explains what we believe in and what inspires us to work hard for children and young people.



Aims and Objectives – what are we trying to do?

Our aim is to provide quality services to children and families which meet children and young people's needs, and which are of real value to you and make a difference to your life.

When it comes to fostering, we aim:

- To build a community of local fostering families who can allow you to stay in touch with the people and places that are important to you, and which meet your individual needs.
- To work positively with all the people who are involved in your care planning, such as social workers and schools.
- To build an EFS staff team that is sensitive, professional and positive.
- To recruit carers who will provide a safe and nurturing home for you.
- To provide a home for you where your health and education needs are met and where you are given the best life chances possible.
- To value and support your fostering family so that they can give the best care possible whilst looking after themselves.
- To work with the laws that govern fostering. These are called the National Fostering Minimum Standards and Fostering Services Regulations 2011; we also work with lots of other laws that tell us how we need to do things to make sure we provide safe families.
- To recruit enough fostering families to offer as many family matches as possible for all the different children needing a family.
- To strive to offer a choice of family for children, where possible.
- By working hard to match children with fostering families, we aim to reduce the number of times you have to move as we feel it is really important for you to be settled.
- To make sure our families and staff have training to allow them to offer the best care and support. In everything we do, we try to stand up for the rights of everyone, whoever you are and whatever your story is.



Status and Constitution – the boring bit!

Eastern Family Services Ltd, an Independent Fostering Provider, is a private limited company registered under the Companies Act 2006. Its' company number is 7563641. You'll know us as 'Eastern Fostering Services' and we use this name so that we can be more easily found when people search for us online.

Eastern Fostering Services is regulated by Ofsted and inspected on a regular basis. (PP1 EFS Statement of Purpose)

Safeguarding Children and Young People – how do we keep you safe?

Your safety and well-being is very important to us. Every member of the team and every fostering family shares responsibility for your safety and we take this seriously.

Our Designated Safeguarding Officer is Eleanor Newman (you'll know her as El), and our Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Jo Elliott. Both ensure that they undertake regular specific training for their roles. All foster carers and EFS staff members complete safeguarding training as part of induction as well as on an ongoing basis.

If there is anything you are worried or unhappy about or if you do not feel safe, you can contact El on 01206 299775 or email her at eleanor.newman@easternfosteringsservices.com.



El



Jo

Recruitment and Assessment of Foster Carers – how do we make sure we get good families for you?

EFS knows that it is really important to find fostering families who can meet your individual needs and provide you with a safe and nurturing home in which to grow. When people want to foster, they have to go through an assessment, which is like a huge exam on everything about their life! This includes:

- A visit from us to their home
- A Medical Report to make sure they are fit enough to care for you
- We speak to 3 people who know the fostering family well and who can tell us what they are like
- Identity checks, to make sure they are who they say they are and that there is nothing hidden about their past
- Checks that the home they live in is safe for you
- 6-10 home visits and interviews which include the foster carers, their children and any other people who live in the family home
- A big report on the foster carer's life, why they want to foster and what things about them will make them good carers This takes about 4-6 months on average.

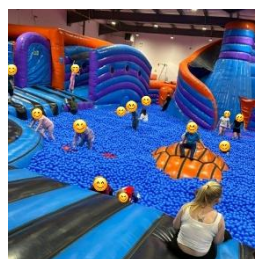


Fostering Panel and Approval

This big report is presented to Eastern Fostering Services fostering panel, which is made up of lots of different people including some who have worked in education, fostering, parenting children with additional needs, work, health and safety and psychology. The panel also gets information from an independent medical advisor. The panel decides whether the people presented to them are suitable to become good foster carers. They do this by asking lots of questions, some of which have been decided on by our Choices for young voices forum. The final decision is made by the Agency Decision Maker, Stuart Entwistle.

Support to Children and Young People

All children and young people joining fostering families with Eastern Fostering Services will receive a welcome present and a children's guide. This will be brought to you by your EFS Social Worker. All children and young people are visited regularly by your EFS Supervising Social Worker and given the chance to talk about what is happening in your lives. We have two Children and Young People's Champions in the team, Sandra and Paul, who support individual children, consult children about their well-being, and organise our regular events and get-togethers.



Complaints

We have a full guide to making a complaint on our website. You can find it here. If you want to complain about anything, you can reach us on:

Tel: 01206 299775

Email: team@easternfosteringervices.com

How to Contact Us

Our office base is situated on the Essex/Suffolk border, in East Bergholt. We can be contacted on the telephone number above or by email or through our website as detailed below:

Email: team@easternfosteringervices.com

Website: www.eastern-fostering-services.com

Alternatively, Ofsted can also be contacted and their details are;

Postal Address Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD

Email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Telephone 0300 123 1231 (helpline open Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm)

You can contact Ofsted online through the www.gov.uk website address too.