



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

For children and young people

Date of Review/Revision	Review/Revision No.	Reviewed/Revised By:
July 2022	1	Eleanor Newman
December 2022	2	Eleanor Newman
May 2023	3	Eleanor Newman
Sept 2023	4	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 children to stay in touch with the people and places that are important to them and which meet children's individual needs.
- To work positively with all professionals involved in children's care planning, such as social workers and schools.
- To develop a staff team that is sensitive, professional and positive.
- To recruit carers who will provide a safe and nurturing home for the children they care for.
- To provide a home for children where their health and education needs are met and where they are given the best life chances possible.
- To value and support foster carers so that they can give the best care possible whilst looking after their own emotional well-being.
- To work to the requirements of the laws that govern fostering. These are the National Fostering Minimum Standards and Fostering Services Regulations 2011, we also work within all other relevant laws.
- To recruit enough carers to offer as many family matches as possible for the numbers of children needing a family.
- To strive to offer a choice of family for children, where possible.
- By working hard to match children and carers and by supporting carers, we aim to reduce the number of times children move between families.
- To make sure our carers 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.

We are a member of the Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers (NAFP), who aim to improve industry standards and campaign for experience and knowledge to be shared within the sector.

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 carer shares responsibility for your safety and we take this seriously.

Our Designated Safeguarding Officer is Eleanor Newman (you'll know her as EI), 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 EI on 01206 299775 or email her at eleanor.newman@easternfosteringservices.com.

The team

If you haven't met us all yet, you will soon!

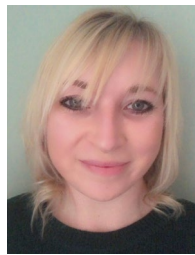
We are a friendly bunch and we all work hard for you, to keep you safe and well cared for.



EI – Registered Manager



Sandra – Senior Supervising Social Worker/16+ coordinator



Jo – Practice Manager



Emma – Senior Supervising Social Worker



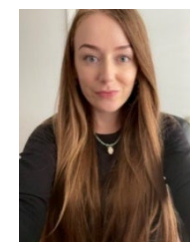
Sam – Supervising Social Worker



Sian – Supervising Social Worker



Lizzy – Supervising Social Worker



Alex – Supervising Social Worker



**Emily – Placements
Officer**



**Sarah –
Operations and
Administrative
Manager**



**Rachel – Fostering
Administrator**



**Yvette –
Fostering
Administrator**



**Angela –
Fostering
Administrator**



**Paul – Childrens
and Young Person's
Participation
Worker**



**Lucy – Marketing
Manager**



**Chris Dingley, Agency
Decision Maker**

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

Eastern Fostering Services is committed to finding foster carers who can meet the individual needs of children and young people and provide them with a safe and nurturing home in which to grow.

When people apply to foster, they have to go through an assessment. 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 foster carer 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 foster carers, their children and any other people who live in the family home
- A big report on the foster carers 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 uses the services of an independent medical advisor.

The panel decides whether the applicant/s 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, Chris Dingley.

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 their EFS Social Worker.

All children and young people are visited regularly by the Eastern Fostering Services Supervising Social Worker, and given the chance to talk about what is happening in their lives.

We have two Children and Young People's Participation and Support Workers 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@easternfosteringsservices.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@easternfosteringservices.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.