



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Family Placement Services

Region: Cymru

Date: Nov 2020

Registered: Fostering Agency

Registration Body: Care Inspectorate
Wales

Registration Number:
W010000722/M001/0006



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Believe in
children**



**Barnardo's
Cymru**

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Introduction

Legal Framework

This Statement of Purpose has been developed in accordance with the following legislation;

- The Children Act 2004
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016
- The Regulated Fostering Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2019 and Statutory Guidance – Fostering Services (2019)
- Children and Young Peoples Act 2008
- Social Services Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014
- Fostering Services Regulations 2011; Care Planning, Case Review and Fostering Services Regulations 2013
- The Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018
- Protecting Children supporting Foster parents – dealing with allegations against foster parents Protocol (Guidance, 2011)

As part of the regulatory requirement a copy of the Statement of Purpose will be provided to Care Inspectorate Wales [CIW] and will be placed on Barnardo's website. The document is also available on request to: staff, Placing Authorities, foster parents, prospective foster parents and children.

This Statement of Purpose has been prepared in accordance with these requirements and will be a useful source of information to Barnardo's staff, foster parents and prospective foster parents, Care Inspectorate Wales, children and young people who are placed with the fostering service, and also to colleagues from other agencies.

This Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and at least annually

Barnardo's status and constitution

Barnardo's is a company limited by guarantee (registered in England under number 61625) and a registered charity (numbers 216250 and SC037605). It was also registered as a trust corporation on 16 December 1926. Its governing instrument is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, most recently amended by special resolution passed on 17 July 2001.

Barnardo's Cymru Fostering Family Placement Service is part of the Barnardo's Family Placement Business Service. The service covers the whole of Wales.

The Responsible Individual is Brenda Farrell.

The Manager of the service is Martin Kaid.

Service Address:
Barnardo's Cymru Fostering Service
Trident Court
East Moors Road
Cardiff
CF24 TD
Telephone: 02920 493387

Family Placement Head Office:
Barnardo's - Youth Village
Hudson Street
North Shields
NE30 1DL
Telephone: 0191 293 1400

As a national organisation we are able to utilise resources and office facilities as appropriate, to meet our business need, across Wales and the UK.

Barnardo's Fostering Service

Aims:

Barnardo's Cymru provides children and young people with fostering services that meet their assessed needs, through good matching and pre-placement planning. The service seeks to maintain stable placements and achieve good outcomes for children, by ensuring that foster parents are appropriately recruited, assessed, trained and supported within the required regulations.

Overarching objectives:

1. To recruit and assess foster parents who are suitable to be approved to look after vulnerable children who are unable to live with their birth families.
2. To ensure that our national foster parent recruitment strategies and initiatives are targeted appropriately so that children and young people have the opportunity of living within a family which values, recognises and supports their unique identity and associated needs.
3. To promote secure attachments and placement stability for children and young people in order to achieve better outcomes for children's health, education, employment and future independence.
4. To provide support, regular supervision and training opportunities to equip foster parents in meeting the complex needs of children placed.
5. To ensure that all regulatory requirements are met in relation to the approval, review and supervision of Parents and placement of children, and to monitor that they are being met via quality assurance processes.
6. To maintain family and personal relationships, therefore promoting contact between children placed and their birth families and or significant others and communicate effectively with parents as appropriate.

7. To enable foster parents to prepare young people adequately for when they transition into adulthood by developing their potential learning and independent life skills and budgeting.
8. To promote positive working relationships / partnerships between Barnardo's fostering and local authorities to facilitate communication and promote good practice for the benefit of children and young people who are placed through the service.
9. To ensure that an independent Fostering Panel operates effectively in accordance with requirements laid down by legislation in relation to Parent approvals, reviews, allegations and complaints.
10. To ensure that the service routinely seeks the views and wishes of its foster parents, children in placement, and staff by encouraging and taking account of feedback in service development plans.
11. To ensure continuous improvement and development of the fostering services can be evidenced through its quality assurance system, and associated reporting structures.
12. To provide suitably skilled and experienced staff who are regularly supervised and provided with training and development opportunities in order for them to undertake their role, in line with individual annual Performance Development Reviews.
13. The service will ensure good practice and up-to-date information is disseminated to staff through regular team events and meetings.
14. The service will check out directly with children and young people how they are and provide them with opportunities to share concerns or worries about their safety and wellbeing. The service will provide children with opportunities to comment, compliment or complain, and will provide relevant information as part of the service guide for children to enable them to report concerns to independent bodies.

15. The service will utilise appropriate methods or equipment to ensure a child can understand communications.

Barnardo's Cymru Family Placement Services – Welsh Language Offer

Barnardo's demonstrates respect for the Welsh Language through all its activities and recognises the need to be appropriately responsive to the linguistic needs of Welsh speakers. Barnardo's Cymru Family Placement Services are fully committed to meeting the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Within Barnardo's Cymru, there is a lead senior management role specifically for Welsh Language and an active Welsh Language Strategy Group that meets quarterly. Barnardo's provides services within the primarily Welsh speaking heartlands of Wales; in partnership with Local Authorities and other organisations where the language of business is Welsh.

We apply a consistent 'active offer' approach to our Welsh language commitment across all our services in Cymru and utilise bilingual signage (both publicity and premises), advertising, websites, recruitment and staffing, and support materials ensuring no language is treated less favourably than the other. We also positively attempt to ensure that:

- All children, young people and their families are made aware that they can access services in both Welsh and English.
- All initial correspondence to families can be provided bilingually.
- Welsh speaking staff are matched to children and families who are Welsh speaking.
- We will identify with families in the community and make families aware, of bilingual service points; providing bilingual capacity to ensure proper and timely, delivery of services.

Services Provided

Placement types provided

Long-term/permanency

Placements are available with long-term foster parents who can take individual children or sibling groups. Long-term placements are matched in accordance with placing authority procedures.

Better Place (Specialist Placements)

Some children who have experienced multiple losses and trauma, and who, as a result, may struggle to form and maintain positive attachments need specialised parenting. In conjunction with placing authorities, we are able to tailor specialised plans of care to target needs where children are considered to be at risk of harm due to vulnerability and sexual exploitation, trafficking and or where they display risky behaviours that impact on their development and wellbeing. These Parents are provided with additional support and training in order to promote positive outcomes.

Short Breaks

We have foster parents who are approved to provide short break/respite placements either on a regular basis or one off holiday breaks. These can be for children living at home with their birth parents, children within our full time placements or children from other fostering agency placements.

Children with complex needs

We provide specialist placements for children and young people who have a severe learning difficulty, a physical disability or who need complex medical care. The team has extensive experience in making successful long-term placements as well as supporting children on a Short Breaks basis.

Solo Placements

Solo placements are offered to children who could be a risk to other children and young people, or whose behaviour is so challenging that Parents cannot offer enough support if other children are present.

Sibling Placements

Some of our Parents are able to care for large sibling groups to enable children to stay together.

When I'm Ready (Wales)

These placements can be negotiated with Placing Authorities to enable young people to remain in their foster placement post 18 to support their transition into adulthood.

Children who need fostering

- Children aged 0-18 years, of any gender
- Children from a BAME background
- Brothers and sisters / sibling groups

Our matching process and pre-placement planning activities take account of our foster parents' particular strengths, skills and experience.

Our induction training and support programme for foster parents enables us to assess and match children and young people with suitable foster parents. This promotes good placement stability and is always child focussed.

All children placed with foster parents have access to health, education, and employment opportunities in accordance with their assessed needs, considering for example, their age, cultural identity and cognitive and physical abilities.

Parents are expected to make sure that children are included and able to access activities, hobbies and individual interests, and that, in particular, they are provided with opportunities to have fun and explore their creativity and relationships through play.

Barnardo's Cymru Fostering Service provides all foster parents with a handbook that summarises all relevant policies and procedures including administration of medicines, recording, etc.

Approved Parents will make themselves available to contribute to and follow the child's care, health and educational plans and reviews, and report on all aspects of these through their formal supervision and daily logs.

Foster parents are required to ensure that children in their care have up-to-date medical attention, and that they are supported in all ways, in a timely manner, to address needs, take advice and support medical intervention as prescribed.

Foster parents are also expected to promote children's intellectual, social and behavioural development, including their emotional health and wellbeing needs, and work in partnership with placing authorities, health and educational professionals, and the service in order to ensure that they are identified, understood and managed in a timely and caring manner.

These requirements are detailed in the Foster Care Agreement signed on the foster parents' approval, which is subsequently reviewed on an annual basis.

Foster parent support

Barnardo's Fostering Service values the work that foster parents do and the contribution they make to the lives of children and young people in their care.

Barnardo's Fostering Service offers the following to all our Parents:

- One to one, formal recorded supervision from an allocated Social Worker where progress on all areas of a child's development and care and Support Plan are reported on, and challenges and actions are identified and addressed
- Access to a fostering out of office hours support telephone line 365 days a year
- Regular telephone contact from the supervising social worker
- At least one unannounced visit per year
- Regular training events and support group meetings
- Events for children in placement, Parent's children and Parents
- Where appropriate, and where in line with the child's care plan, a short break service to provide alternative experiences for the child and a short break for the main Parent

- Good quality liaison and working arrangements with local authorities including attendance at relevant meetings such as Education (PEP) and Looked After Child reviews
- A level of financial support that values and recognises Parent's skills, achievements and time including a foster care fee and fostering allowance
- A buddy system for Parents to share experiences and receive advice and support

Therapeutic services can be provided by qualified and verified external workers who adhere to service protocols.

Foster parent training

Barnardo's Fostering Service recognises that fostering is an extremely complex and demanding job and we are committed to providing high quality training that is accessible and relevant to all our foster parents.

Training is provided to help foster parents develop their fostering role, to improve knowledge and to define and refine the skills they already have. The training is delivered within an explicit value base which promotes equality of opportunity and recognises and celebrates diversity. It seeks to ensure that all Parents are competent and confident in providing safe care and in protecting children from harm.

All Parents keep a training portfolio which enables the service to assess their ongoing suitability and fitness. This includes mandatory training on protecting, promoting and maintaining children's safety through safeguarding and equality, diversity and inclusion training.

Complaints, allegations and whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is the reporting of a concern in the public interest that something is happening within Barnardo's that should not be, or not happening that should be. It is based on the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA).

Barnardo's is committed to the highest standards of openness, integrity, accountability and practice and concerns can be raised via the Whistleblowing process.

Complaints

The aim of Barnardo's complaints process is to resolve a complaint at the most informal level possible. Complaints can be made in writing or orally to any member of staff up to and including the CEO. Complainants and staff subject to complaints are kept informed of the progress of the investigation and any associated procedures subject to normal staff confidentiality.

The stages to managing any complaint are:

- Stage 1 Local Resolution
- Stage 2 Independent Investigation
- Stage 3 Review of Process

Stage 1 Local Resolution

This stage will be conducted by the line manager of the person or service being complained about. At the outset the complainant must be asked for their desired outcome.

Stage 1 should normally be completed within 10 working days.

Stage 2 Independent Investigation

The investigation should be completed within 25 work days from the date of agreement that it should take place. Extensions can be given if agreed by the lead manager, the Complaints Officer and complainant and the reasons for delay must be recorded.

Stage 3 Review of Process

If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the independent investigation (Stage 2) they or their advocate can request review of how this was undertaken and their representation considered.

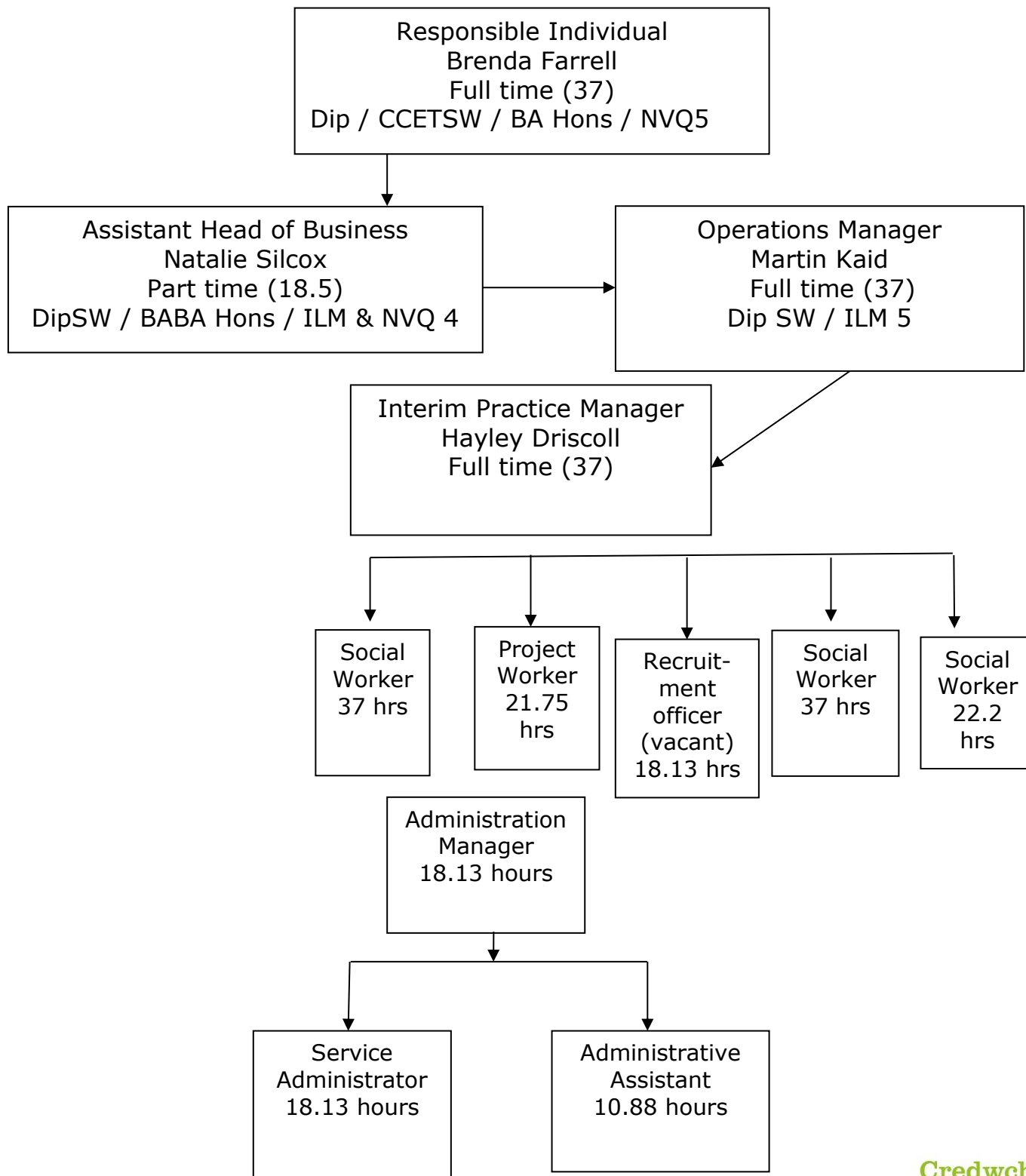
Allegations against foster parents/staff

Allegations made by a child (or on behalf of a child) are always followed up via Safeguarding Procedures.

Service staff structure

Service, management and staffing structure

(Including details of relevant qualifications and experience)



In addition to the above staffing structure the service employs a small pool of independent professionals who undertake Form F assessments where required, as well as professional therapists who are available to undertake direct work in accordance with individual child care plans.

Facilities and Services

Our office provides suitable meeting spaces for training, support groups, events and panel and confidential discussions.

Parking is available directly outside of the building, which is open during office hours.

Barnardo's promotes access for all. The premises has disabled access to the entryway, an identified disabled parking space, a lift, and accessible toilet facilities.

There are all-gender toilet facilities available.

BCAFS operates an electronic recording system. All records are kept in line with corporate policies and procedures. Encryption services are used to share information electronically.

The service is paperless and staff are provided with appropriate electronic equipment and technical support.

Governance and quality monitoring arrangements

The Responsible Individual maintains oversight of the management, quality, safety and effectiveness of the service in line with its annual business plan. This is undertaken by engaging with children, analysing data, attending fostering panels, visiting the service and compiling;

- 1) a quality of care review report for Barnardo's which is completed every six months and includes an assessment into the standard of care and associated recommendations;
- 2) a report on the adequacy of resources available (known internally as a QPA) every quarter;
- 3) an annual return to Welsh Ministers (CIW).

There are a range of systems in place to monitor and evaluate the provision of Barnardo's fostering services, to ensure they are effective and that the quality is of an appropriate standard.

The arrangements in place to monitor, review and improve the quality of the service include the following:

- Parent(s)' Annual Reviews
- Parents' Consultation Forms
- Children's Feedback Forms
- Feedback from local authority workers prior to Parent(s) reviews
- Parents' feedback, where appropriate
- Feedback from local authority workers at children's reviews
- Children's feedback from individual and group participation sessions
- Annual staff personal development plans
- Monthly supervision of Parent(s)
- Supervision of and feedback from staff
- Feedback from Parents regarding training
- Feedback from Parents via annual service satisfaction questionnaire

- Feedback from key stakeholders
- Feedback from Panel
- File Audit
- Annual 4C's Quality Assessment
- Quarterly service performance reviews
- External Monitoring via LA/Framework monitoring processes
- External inspection via regulatory bodies Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

Regulation and inspection of services

Regulatory Body: Care Inspectorate Wales CIW

Registration Number: W010000722/M001/0002

Contact details

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

Welsh Government office

Rhydycar Business Park

Merthyr Tydfil

CF48 1UZ

Telephone: 0300 7900 126

Other relevant contact details

Whistleblowing

Contact the whistleblowing hotline run by Barnardo's Independent Corporate Audit and Inspection Unit (CAIU) on:

Telephone: 020 8498 7311

Email: whistleblowing@barnardos.org.uk

Complaints

Barnardo's Head Office

Tanners Lane

Ilford

Essex

IG6 1QG

Telephone: 020 8550 8822

Mobile: 07917 187718 (*for text or voice mail about complaints*)

Email: cs.complaints@barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo's Cymru/Wales

Trident Court

East Moors Road

Cardiff

CF24 5TD

Telephone: 029 20493387

Email: cs.complaints@barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo's Cymru Fostering Service

You could also text or email – see information under Barnardo's Head Office

Children's Commissioner

www.childcomwales.org.uk

Oystermouth House Charter Court, Swansea SA7 9FS
01792 765600