



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Family Placement Services

Region: Yorkshire and Humber

Date: March 2019

Registered: Fostering Agency

Registration Body: Ofsted

URN: SC068456



**Believe in
children**
 **Barnardo's**

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Introduction

Legal Framework

This Statement of Purpose has been developed in accordance with regulations, statutory guidance and National Minimum Standards as applying to fostering providers, including:

- The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011; Regulation 3 and Regulation 4
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services (2011)
- Fostering Services National Minimum Standards (2011); Standard 16
- The Care Planning Placement and Case Reviews and Fostering services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 govern the work of fostering providers throughout England.

As part of the regulatory requirement, a copy of the Statement of Purpose will be provided to Ofsted and will be placed on Barnardo's website. The document is also made available to staff, Placing Authorities, foster carers, and placed children. It can be made available on request to others.

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 carers and prospective foster carers, 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 **Yorkshire Fostering** Service is part of the Barnardo's Family Placement Business Service.

The Head of Service is Brenda Farrell

Head Office Address:
Barnardo's - Youth Village
Hudson Street
North Shields
NE30 1DL

Telephone: 0191 296 3355

Aims, objectives and outcomes

Aims

Barnardo's Fostering Service is a leading national independent fostering agency, providing fostering and short break services across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We aim to achieve high quality, stable placements for children and young people by ensuring that foster carers are appropriately recruited, assessed, trained and supported within the required regulations and national minimum standards.

Objectives and outcomes

1. To protect children and young people from abuse and neglect.
2. To recruit, assess, support and train carers to provide a range of fostering placements for children who are unable to live with their birth families.
3. To provide short break care for children and young people with a learning and / or physical disability or complex health needs living with their birth families.
4. To ensure that foster carer 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 ethnic origin, cultural heritage and religion.
5. To provide support, regular supervision and training opportunities to equip foster carers in meeting the complex needs of children placed.
6. To ensure that all regulatory and minimum standard requirements are met in relation to the approval, review and supervision of carers and placement of children, and to monitor that they are being met via quality assurance processes.
7. To provide an out of hours contact service for foster carers.

8. 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.
9. To prepare young people adequately for when they leave their foster family and create lifelong attachments with foster carers.
10. To maintain and promote contact between children placed and their birth families and or significant others and communicate effectively with parents as appropriate.
11. To promote positive working relationships / partnerships between Barnardo's fostering, adoption and short break services and local authorities or trusts to facilitate communication and promote good practice for the benefit of children and young people who are placed by the service.
12. To ensure that the Fostering Panel operates according to guidelines laid down by legislation and regulations in relation to carer approvals, reviews, allegations and complaints.
13. To ensure that the way in which the Service develops takes into account the views and wishes of its carers, the foster children in placement and staff by encouraging feedback from staff, foster carers, looked after children and birth children.
14. To ensure continuous improvement and development of the fostering services through regular training for staff around changes to legislation and regulations and identifying the needs and type of specialist placements required.

Service registration details

Barnardo's provides fostering services across Yorkshire, Humber and North Lincolnshire. It currently has 44 children in placement and 37 foster carers.

Support services including Training, Human Resources, Finance, and Quality Assurance are centrally provided.

At a local level, the team is flat in structure allowing better lines of communication and a quicker response to carers and children.

Locally we have 4 Social workers with 5-15 years' experience between them.

Supervision is monthly, agendas are standard, actions monitored, and minutes circulated the day of supervision and signed off electronically and saved in staff files.

Name and address of the Registered Provider

Unit 6 Pavilion Business Park, Royds Hall Road, Leeds
LS12 6AJ Telephone 0113 263 1464

Name and address of the Responsible Individual

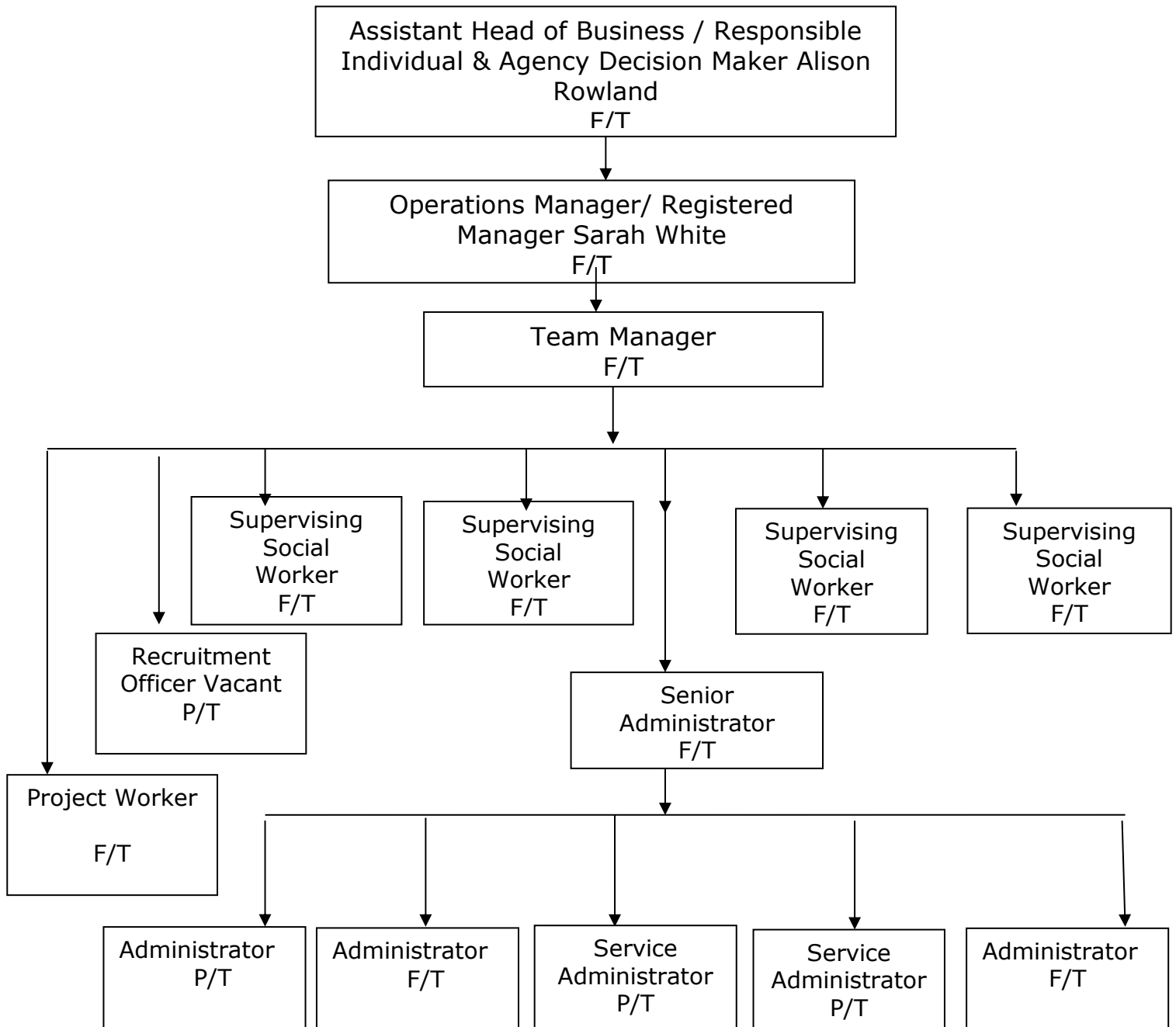
Alison Rowland Unit 6 Pavilion Business Park
Royds Hall Road, Leeds
LS12 6A

The relevant qualifications and experience of the Registered Manager include:

BA Hons Social Work Post Graduate Diploma in SW and Management Qualification

Service staff structure

Service, management and staffing structure



Job roles and qualifications

Operations Manager/ Registered Manager

All social work professionals are registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) and hold management qualifications. Operations Manager / Registered Manager are responsible for the overall operation of the fostering services to foster carers, children and young people.

The Operations / Registered Manager are responsible for budgetary control and involved with the development and implementation of the strategic aims and objectives of the organisation. The Operations / Registered Managers are responsible for the management of Team Managers, sit on Panel as Panel Advisor, ensure all policies and procedures are up to date, complete audits of the service to ensure a high standard, and monitor and advise on serious complaints and allegations ensuring appropriate procedures are followed and safeguards are in place.

Supervising Social Workers (SSW)

All social workers are registered with the HCPC and undertake the assessment, support and review of foster carers. SSWs work in partnership with the looked after child's Social Worker to promote good outcomes. SSWs also support training, coordinate support groups and cover the out-of-hours support service.

Service Administrators

Service Senior Administrators undertake financial duties in the fostering service including invoicing, carer payments, credit control and accounts payable. They are responsible for health and safety and ensure that the office remains a safe working environment with appropriate risk assessments completed by staff. Service Administrators supervise the Administration team.

Admin Assistants

Undertake a wide range of admin tasks to support the work of the service such as inputting and monitoring of statistical data, coordinating training, ensuring all checks and repeat checks are completed.

Summary of current staffing

There are 4 Social Workers which are all full time posts as well as 1 full time support worker.

There is a range of experience in the team from 5- 15 years' experience in fostering and social care including child care social work and safeguarding.

The Operations Manager has over 10 years' social work experience in children and families and is completing a Level 5 Management course.

There are 6 administration staff equating to 4.5 full time equivalent posts.

Services provided

Placement types provided

Emergency

We have carers who can provide unplanned / emergency placements for individual children or sibling groups. Referrals are required to be made within office hours.

Short Breaks (respite)

We have foster carers who 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.

Short-term

Short-term placements can last for up to two years, while long-term plans are being formulated.

Bridging

We provide placements with foster carers who are experienced in 'bridging' children to adoption placements, permanent placements or independence. Bridging placements form part of a long-term plan for the child and can last up to two years.

Long-term/permanency

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

Disabled children and young people

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.

Parent and Child

We are able to provide placements for parents who are under 18-years-old, so that they can receive support in developing parenting

skills. Foster carers can assist local authorities with their assessments by providing information relating to parenting capacity/capabilities.

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 carers cannot offer enough support if other children are present.

Assessment Placements

Specific assessments can be carried out to a local authority's requirements. Typical assessments include the child's development, current/long-term needs and therapeutic requirements.

Sibling Placements

Many of our carers are able to care for large sibling groups to enable children to stay together.

Unaccompanied Children

Several of our foster carers are very skilled in providing placements for children/young people who are unaccompanied from overseas.

Staying Put Arrangements

These are to enable young people to remain in their foster placement post 18 to support their transition into adulthood.

Recruitment, approval, review and support for foster carers

Barnardo's policies, procedures and standards for the recruitment and assessment of foster carers are in line with required regulations and standards for fostering services in Regulation 26 (a).

Enquiries

On receiving an enquiry from a prospective foster carer, the Service requests basic information and sends out an information pack containing material about Barnardo's, the Service and fostering generally. An initial home visit is then arranged by a fostering social worker from the Service to discuss in more detail the work of the Service and to answer any queries or concerns the enquirer may have. A decision will be reached as to whether the prospective foster carer wishes to and is suitable to proceed.

Assessment and Approval

If a prospective foster carer is deemed suitable and wishes to proceed, an Application to be assessed / Registration of Interest form will be completed together with written consents to enable the Fostering Service to ascertain their suitability to foster.

The process for assessing a person's suitability to foster consists of two parts. This is referred to as **Stage 1** and **Stage 2**.

These stages can be carried out concurrently, but the information for **Stage 1** must be sought as soon as possible, and the decision about whether an applicant has successfully completed Stage 1 must be made within 10 working days of all the information required in that stage being received by the fostering agency.

Stage 1

In accordance with Regulation 26 (1A) the information gathered in Stage 1 includes:

- Full details of the applicant(s) and all household members as well as any children of the applicants living elsewhere.
- Checks undertaken with the police via the DBS / Police Checks/ Access NI on all household members 16 years and over, as well as with the Department of Health, Social Services and any other relevant agency, for example Health, Education, NSPCC, Ofsted, previous fostering and adoption agencies.
- DBS checks may also be undertaken on any other regular visitor to the household who may have care of foster children when placed. Some checks are repeated every three years.
- The applicant is required to have a medical examination which is completed by their GP, who sends the completed Medical Report to Barnardo's Regional Medical Adviser for comments about the applicant(s)' health.
- The applicant is also asked to name three to six personal referees from which a minimum of three will be selected to provide written references and who will also be interviewed as part of the approval process. Where appropriate we also ask for permission to approach the applicant's current or past employer. Adult children and previous partners will also be contacted.

Stage 1 of the assessment process is intended to provide the decision maker with basic information about the applicant's suitability (or not) to proceed to Stage 2 of the assessment in which more detailed information is collected.

Stage 2

If it is decided to undertake Stage 2 of the assessment, regulation 26(2) requires the fostering service to obtain the information about the applicant set out in Part 2 of Schedule 3:

- Details of personality and life experiences.
- Religious persuasion and capacity to care for a child from any particular religious persuasion.
- Racial origin, cultural and linguistic background and capacity to care for a child from any particular racial origin or cultural or religious background.

- Past and present employment or occupation, standard of living, leisure activities and interests.
- Previous experience (if any) of caring for their own and other children.
- Skills, competence and potential relevance to their capacity to care effectively for a child placed with them.

A qualified and experienced Social Worker will carry out the assessment by visiting the applicant(s)' home and meet with all members of the family and collate information about the applicant(s)' experience and skills. The information from the Social Worker's visit will be collated and forms the basis of an assessment report (BAAF Form F). This report is shared and discussed with the applicants.

During the assessment preparation period, training – Skills to Foster - is provided by the Service. This training includes the role and responsibilities of foster carers, working with different agencies, and child development. All applicants are required to attend.

The completed assessment report is presented to the Foster Panel. Applicants are expected to attend the Panel.

The Panel will then make a recommendation about the suitability of the applicants to be approved as foster carers. These will be passed to a Senior Manager in Barnardo's, who is nominated as the organisation's 'Agency Decision Maker', who has the final decision about approval on behalf of Barnardo's.

Applicants are informed verbally and in writing of the Agency Decision Maker's final decision.

Foster Carer Reviews

Reviews take place by Barnardo's Fostering Service, in line with regulatory requirements of a foster carer Regulation 28 (2).

A first review must take place within 12 months after approval and subsequent reviews take place at least every 12 months thereafter.

Barnardo's must be satisfied that the foster carers continue to meet the required standards as set out in Regulation 28 (4).

Reviews may also take place at other times for example as a result of a request to change the terms of approval; following a serious complaint, allegation of abuse, or other matters of serious / safeguarding concern; in response to a significant change of circumstances, such as a carer's adult child returning home, relationship problems or separations, significant health issues, pregnancy, etc.

Foster Carer Support

Barnardo's Fostering Service values the work that foster carers do and the contribution they make to the lives of children and young people in their care. The key to a successful placement is the quality of support that foster carers receive. Barnardo's Fostering Service offers the following support to all our carers:

- Supervision and support from a named qualified and experienced Social Worker Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.
- Access to a specialist fostering help and advice out of office hours support telephone line.
- Frequent visits, (minimum of once per month), negotiated with the carer and regular telephone contact from the supervising social worker. Including at least two unannounced visits per year.
- Regular support group meetings.
- Events for children in placement, carers children and carers.
- Support/activity groups for carers children.
- A comprehensive post-approval training programme which is linked to (TSDS) Training, Support and Development Standards.
- Access to Therapeutic Support
- Where appropriate, and where in line with the child's care plan, a short break service to provide alternative experiences / respite for the child and a short break for the main carer.
- 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 carer's skills, achievements and time including a foster care fee and fostering allowance.
- A buddy system for carers to share experiences and receive advice and support.

Foster Carer Training and Development

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 carers.

Training is provided to help foster carers 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 carers are competent and confident in providing safe care and in protecting children from harm.

Foster carers are supported to complete Training Support and Development (TSDS) Standards for foster carers within 12 months of approval for full time and 18 months for Short Break only.

Training is offered throughout a carer's career with Barnardo's Fostering Service and incorporates a range of topics which evolve with changes in practice, legislation and needs, examples of which are:

- child protection
- recording
- first aid
- managing difficult behaviour
- attachment
- education
- health
- bereavement and loss
- health and safety
- relationship and
- resilience building
- self-esteem & identity
- life story work
- managing and promoting contact
- child development
- equal opportunities
- drugs and alcohol awareness
- female genital mutilation

- sexual health
- sexual exploitation
- anti-radicalisation

All Foster carers are supported in developing a Personal Development Plan (PDP) which sets out how they will be supported to undertake ongoing training and development that is appropriate to their development needs, experience and the needs of the children placed or who may be placed in their care.

Equality and Diversity

Barnardo's recognise the diverse society and communities in which we all live and work. We embrace diversity and promote equality of opportunity. We aim to recruit people from all backgrounds to reflect the demographics of the regions we cover.

Training is mandatory for all staff and carers to assist them to understand and value diversity.

We want all children and young people in our placements, our foster carers and employees to feel valued and treated equally and fairly.

Our goal is to ensure our values are embedded in our day to day working practices with all our stakeholders and service users. The service considers the needs of all young people referred in the areas of race, gender, culture, religion, sexuality, ability and geographic origin, and will endeavour to promote each young person's sense of identity through appropriately matched placements, and direct work in relation to a young person's cultural background.

The Voice of the Child

Barnardo's Leeds supports UNICEF's mission to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided in doing this by the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We seek to ensure that children's views, wishes and feelings are acted upon, unless this is contrary to their interests or adversely affects other members of the foster care household.

We act to ensure that children understand how their views have been taken into account and where significant wishes or concerns are not acted upon, they are helped to understand why.

The wishes, feelings and views of children and those significant to them are taken into account in monitoring foster carers and developing the fostering service.

Participation

The Senior Management Team within Barnardo's is committed to ensuring the involvement of children and young people, foster carers, staff and other stakeholders when gathering information to help shape strategy, policy and procedures of the Agency, and to ensuring that quality standards are achieved and ongoing and sustainable improvement through continuous review.

We expect Supervising Social Workers to see each child on a regular basis, to ascertain their views about their care which are used in annual reviews, form f updates, LAC reviews and staff development meetings.

Monitoring and evaluation

There is 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 following mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate the service:

- Foster Carer Reviews
- Foster Carer Consultations
- Children Consultations
- Children feedback/evaluation from individual and group participation sessions
- Annual staff appraisals
- Monthly supervision of carer(s)
- Regular supervision of staff
- Feedback from foster carers regarding training
- Feedback from foster carers via annual service satisfaction questionnaire
- Feedback from other professionals
- Feedback from local authority/ Trust workers at children's LAC reviews
- Feedback from local authority/ Trust workers prior to carer(s) reviews
- Evaluation of training by carers
- Feedback from panel
- Panel Attendees Form
- File Audit
- Service Quality Assessment, annual assessment undertaken by the Assistant Head of Business
- Quarterly performance reviews by the Assistant Director
- External Monitoring via LA / Trust / Framework monitoring processes
- External monitoring via regulatory bodies, including Ofsted and Charities commission.

Radicalisation

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of an overall counter terrorism strategy called CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Most individuals, even those who hold extreme radical views, do not become involved in violent extremism and holding extreme views is not illegal. However it is recognised that the current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism. This exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

Barnardo's support children and young people in our foster care to feel confident and proud of their personal identity, cultural and ethnic background, recognising this as key to becoming confident, well rounded adults. We also encourage children and young people to develop and express their views and opinions, some of which may be strongly held and potentially radical. We also have a responsibility to safeguard children and young people from radicalisation and violent extremism and need to understand potential vulnerabilities and influences upon them which put them at risk. We are committed to working with children and young people to support them to make safe choices, build resilience and offer protection. PREVENT training is delivered annually for all staff and carers.

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.

For details on where to report a concern see Section 8 – Other Contacts.

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.

For details on where to report a concern see Section 8 – Other Contacts.

Other routes of complaint

Where a service is registered with an external body (e.g. Ofsted or CSSIW), complainants may directly approach the relevant regulatory body at any stage. The regulatory body has the power to investigate the complaint itself or require Barnardo's or the relevant local authority / trust to do so.

For details on the relevant regulatory body and their contact details see section 9.

Allegations against foster carers/staff

Allegations and suspicions of harm are handled in a way that provides effective protection and support for children, the person making the allegation, and at the same time supports the person who is subject of the allegation.

Allegations made by a child (or on behalf of a child) will be followed up via Safeguarding Procedures in accordance with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' and subsequent amendments.

As part of Working Together procedures, there is a section on Managing Allegations against People who Work with Children. This applies to all people who work with children and includes foster carers. Further information can be provided if such a situation should arise.

Regulation and inspection of services and finances

Barnardo's Fostering Services are regulated under the Children Act 1989, the National Minimum Standards and Regulations for Fostering Services regulations 2011 and Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 as amended by the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.

Barnardo's Fostering Services are registered and inspected as an independent fostering agency with Ofsted.

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting the fostering agency. They will also receive and investigate any complaints about the fostering agency.

Significant Incidents are reported to Ofsted under Schedule 7 of the Care fostering Services Regulations 2011.

Agency fees

The Agency operates within a number of Framework Contracts for Independent Fostering agencies. Fees agreed within each framework for different types of placement are transparent and inclusive.

The Agency Fee Schedule incorporates discounts for long-term and sibling placements in some instances where agreed. Any additional services required in order to meet a child's particular needs and circumstances, over and above those outlined in a contract, are negotiated and agreed with the responsible authority at the point of placement or at subsequent reviews, and confirmed through the issuing of an Individual Placement Agreement by the responsible Local Authority.

This could include, for example, additional educational support, specialised equipment for a child with disabilities and other exceptional or major expenses as well as ongoing therapeutic input from one of the professionals working with the agency.

Carer Fees

The financial remuneration offered to agency carers reflects the demands of the task and quality of service carers are expected to offer. Out of their fee, carers are expected to meet the routine cost of looking after a child. Further details are available on request and are always included with the foster carer's agreement.

A statement of the agencies financial position

The agency's income is generated entirely by fees paid by the local authorities for placements with agency carers for looked after children. These fees are detailed in the agency's Schedule of Fees. The agency's expenditure comprises fees to foster carers, staff salaries and the expenses associated with the running of the service. There is also a commitment to improving and enhancing services to carers and children.

Contact details

Ofsted

Piccadilly Gate

Store Street

Manchester

M1 2WD

Ofsted Information Helpline: 0300 123 1231

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

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

Barnardo's Yorkshire Fostering

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

Children's Commissioners

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/