

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
FOSTERING SERVICE
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
MARCH 2022

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FOREWARD

Our statement of purpose sets out the aims and objectives of Kirklees Council's Fostering Service. It shows how the needs of children and young people will be met and how good outcomes will be achieved for all children in foster care in Kirklees.

A placement with Kirklees local authority foster carers is the preferred choice for the majority of children and young people who are unable to live with their birth parents or relatives. We provide a range of placements and support, working with a child centred approach, meeting both short term needs as well as providing more permanent placements with families, when this is in the best interest of the child.

We want an effective, high quality child centred approach delivered through our in-house Fostering service. It is a core objective in Kirklees' strategy for improving outcomes for children and young people. We seek to ensure that our placement within our local communities where possible.

The recruitment of, and support for foster carers, is of the highest priority for Kirklees Council, and we undertake this with great care, commitment, and professionalism.

Tom Brailsford,
Service Director
Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
Children's Services

INTRODUCTION

Kirklees Fostering Service believes that Kirklees children who require foster placements, benefit from being placed with Kirklees Council foster carers. This enables us to take full responsibility for ensuring children are placed with families who are subject to the highest possible standards in recruitment, training, support, and monitoring. It ensures that children are placed with carers we know well, enabling appropriate matching and maximising the potential for placement stability.

This document is intended to provide information to:

- Prospective foster carers.
- Kirklees registered foster carers.
- Children placed with and the birth children of Kirklees Council Foster Carers.
- Kirklees Council staff and other professional partners.
- The general public

Kirklees Council's Fostering Service aims to meet the requirements of;

- National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services 2011.
- Fostering Services Regulations 2011.
- National Care Standards Act 2000.
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 which amend the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 with respect to the assessment and approval of foster carers for looked after children.
- The Children and Families Act 2014 and the Training, Support and Development Induction Standards for Foster Care

SECTION ONE - OUR VISION

In Kirklees we are committed to supporting children to remain within their families. We do so by working with them to bring about change, so that parents and carers are able to provide good parenting, firm boundaries, and emotional support.

Where children cannot safely remain with their families, we seek to provide them with alternative high-quality care, preferably within family settings but otherwise in suitably matched high-quality residential children's homes, as near as possible to their home locality, to enable children and young people to maintain links with their families and communities.

We aim for children to be in care for the shortest time possible to achieve a sustainable exit from care that meets all their needs, whether that is a return home or a permanent alternative family arrangement.

We want the same things for the children and young people we look after as any good parent would want for their child. We want children to be healthy and happy in childhood. We want them to feel valued for who they are and to feel loved. We want them to enjoy learning and to have a good experience of education.

Our aim is for children and young people to grow into well adjusted, emotionally healthy individuals who will experience positive relationships; be responsible and economically independent citizens; be successful parents should they choose to be parents; have ambition and high aspirations and achieve their full potential. We will achieve this by providing the highest quality of care delivered through the partnership of services for which we are both responsible and accountable.

We will also work together with children and young people and with partner services to promote a positive image of care to counteract discrimination that can take place and that can have a negative impact on children and young people's self-image and self-esteem.

Kirklees Fostering Service believes that children should receive care from foster carers who are child centred and can effectively meet children's emotional needs and help them achieve our aspirations.

Our vision is to have a whole service culture of therapeutic and trauma informed parenting.

OUR AIMS

Kirklees Fostering Service is committed to offering high quality provision and achieving and maintaining the highest standards. It operates and is managed in accordance with the Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2011 and the principles outlined in the National Minimum Standards 2011.

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Children who are looked after are consulted regarding their wishes and feelings about all aspects of their care.
- Every child who is looked after will have a safe care plan, health plan and a personal education plan
- Every child looked after will be encouraged to participate appropriately in religious and cultural beliefs in accordance with their wishes and feelings and developmental understanding
- Every child looked after will be cared for in an environment free from oppression, discrimination, and prejudice, encouraging them to develop a positive sense of their own identity
- The fostering service will support the identified aims and objectives of the child or young person's care plan and work alongside other professionals in the implementation of this
- The fostering service will work in partnership with other professionals to promote contact between looked after children and their family and other significant persons
- Foster carers have a handbook to inform and guide their practice and clarify expectations, responsibilities, and standards.

The Service also aims to provide continuously improving quality placements with foster carers for all those children and young people where it is assessed as being in their best interests to be cared for in a family setting and to recruit foster carers who can meet the assessed needs of the children requiring placement and who reflect the cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic background of the children placed with them.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- For most children and young people who become looked after, a fostering placement will be the first choice of placement unless an assessment indicates that a particular child's needs cannot be met in this way.
- To assess and where appropriate, approve relatives or close family friends as carers for children of all ages, where this is seen to be in the best interest of the child.
- To recruit foster carers where children can be sufficiently close to their homes to enable them to retain important links, whether this be to family, school, or friends.
- To ensure that a child's physical and emotional health care needs are met and that a positive healthy lifestyle is encouraged to enable each child to develop.
- To ensure that all our children are achieving to the highest standard educationally. Our foster carers receive support and guidance from the Virtual Headteacher and dedicated practitioners in Virtual School service.
- We work within an equal opportunities framework and all carers embrace these principles.
- Foster carers are treated as fellow professionals and are an important part of the team caring for the children and allowances reflect their skill and experience.
- The Placement Support team is a multi-agency team with access to CAHMs practitioners who work directly with foster carers and children looked after to achieve positive mental, psychological, and emotional wellbeing.
- We undertake regular audits in order to identify good practice and any gaps in provision
- The fostering marketing strategy enables the service to target and prioritise areas of greatest need.
- If children need to be placed with carers who do not reflect their background, carers and the children are provided with support and advice to enable the children/young people to retain their identity.
- To obtain regular feedback from children and young people in placement about the care and service they receive, in advance of their foster carers' Review and when they leave the placement.
- A Supervising Social Worker from the Fostering service is allocated to each foster carer, and they are responsible for ensuring that the care offered is of a good standard.
- Reviews of foster carers are used to evaluate their experiences, skills, and any required changes to their profiles.

- Regular management meetings take place with representatives from the Kirklees Fostering Network.
- The Fostering Service pays membership fees to the Fostering Network, to ensure that Carers receive up to date information about the national developments in the fostering service and advice and support.

SECTION TWO: PRE-APPROVAL

RECRUITMENT AND APPROVAL

Whilst the majority of carers who were in 2020/21 recruited were able to provide care for children aged 0-11, the team was focused on approving households with the capacity to develop and potentially expand, to meet our more pressing sufficiency needs which are for children aged 11+, sibling groups, and children with disabilities.

The Fostering service has a dedicated Recruitment and Assessment team that deal with all aspects of marketing, recruitment, and assessment of new fostering households. We maintain a dedicated recruitment information telephone line, where our Fostering Advisors operate extended hours. We have an informative website which is regularly updated and a recruitment newsletter to communicate with families who have expressed an interest in becoming foster carers.

Our carers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and as a fostering service, we recruit carers from all cultural, religious, ethnic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds. This enables the Placement team to match foster carers with the specific identified needs of the children and young people.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Our Fostering Advisors manage the enquiry process promptly and provide ongoing communication with potential applicants. After a conversation with a Fostering Advisor if the enquirer wishes to proceed, a home visit by an Advisor is arranged. Following the home visit the enquirer completes their application form and must give consent for us to make relevant safeguard checks to assess their initial suitability to become a foster carer.

The process for assessing a person's suitability to foster consists of two parts. These can be carried out at the same time.

Stage 1:

Information required within 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 days of receiving all relevant information.

The checks undertaken are:

- Disclosure and Barring Service checks on all members of the household aged 18 or over and regular visitors to the household. This involves disclosure of information

about any criminal convictions or cautions and other information which may be held by the police or government agencies relevant to the protection of children.

- The applicant will also be required to have a medical examination completed by their GP and the report made available to the Kirklees Council Medical Adviser, their comments about the health of the applicant and any impact on their potential to foster.

Once the applicant indicates a wish to proceed, they will be invited to attend our 'Journey to Foster' training.

Stage 2:

After attending the skills to foster training, applicants will be assigned an assessing Social Worker, who will begin their assessment.

Further safeguard checks will be undertaken including:

- Verification of identity and personal history
- Council database checks including enquiries to all relevant Social Care departments and Child Protection registers
- Enquiries to other relevant agencies including NSPCC and Probation.
- At least 3 personal referees who will provide both written references and be interviewed.
- Employment references.

During the assessment the allocated Social Worker usually visits on six to eight occasions to meet and collect information about all members of the household.

The assessment explores,

- the family composition;
- the experiences of the applicants own upbringing;
- their motivation for becoming a foster carer
- their skills in relation to parenting or communicating with children.

The assessment especially focuses on the applicant's potential to provide emotionally attuned parenting. All information and observations obtained from the assessment, safeguard checks, reference checks and training will form the basis of an assessment called a 'Form F' report. This report is shared with the applicant and then presented to the Fostering Panel.

Applicants are invited to attend the Fostering Panel when their application is being considered. The Fostering Panel makes recommendations about the suitability of the applicant to be approved as Foster Carers. The Agency Decision Maker receives the recommendation of the Fostering Panel and on behalf of the Foster Service makes the final decision about approval. Applicants are informed verbally and in writing of the Service's decision.

The full assessment process, on average, takes five to six months. Every effort is made to ensure there are no avoidable delays. All information is held on a secure file and can be viewed by the applicant, on request. References from external agencies and personal

references, which are provided in confidence, cannot be shared without permission of both the subject and the relevant referee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOSTER CARERS

Parenting any child is demanding work, being a foster carer adds more layers of complexity. Children in care have experienced trauma and require skilled, therapeutic parenting from emotionally resilient and reflective foster carers.

In addition, foster carers must understand a wide range of issues such as the impact of discrimination, the importance of the child's ongoing relationship with their birth family and how to work effectively with others in the child's network.

The provision of good quality pre and post approval training for foster carers is, therefore, vital. Kirklees provides a wide range of learning opportunities to enable foster carers to be effective in their role.

It is our expectation that Kirklees' foster carers are committed to and take responsibility for their ongoing personal development throughout their time as registered foster carers. When fostering as part of a couple both carers must engage with professional development, even when there are clearly defined 'primary' and 'secondary' carer arrangements within a household.

PRE-APPROVAL TRAINING

Journey to Foster

The preparation training (Journey to Foster Training Programme) is comprised of 6 sessions which take place over 3 days. This is a compulsory part of the assessment process (not compulsory for Connected Persons). The course sessions are:

- Module 1 - What foster carers do and what children in care need
- Module 2 - Attachment and how to care for children safely
- Module 3 - Welcoming a child
- Module 4 - Supervision and support
- Module 5 - Promoting positive relationships
- Module 6 - Identity and foster care

SECTION THREE: POST-APPROVAL

POST APPROVAL TRAINING

TRAINING, SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT (TSD) INDUCTION STANDARDS

All foster carers complete the TSD induction standards within the first year of being approved as a foster carer.

The standards have been created by the Department for Education and they provide a national minimum benchmark that sets out what foster carers should know, understand and be able to do within the first 12-18 months after being approved.

There are seven TSD standards:

- Standard 1: Understand the principles and values essential for fostering children and young people
- Standard 2: Understand your role as a foster carer
- Standard 3: Understand health and safety, and healthy care
- Standard 4: Know how to communicate effectively
- Standard 5: Understand the development of children and young people
- Standard 6: Keep children and young people safe from harm
- Standard 7: Develop yourself

Courses which are run alongside the TSD are,

- Awareness of Child Abuse (e-learning with the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership)
- Blended Paediatric First Aid
- Child Development (0 – 19) – Attachment
- Family Time for Children and Young People
- First Steps to Fostering
- Health Matters
- Manual Handling e-learning
- National Minimum Standards
- Safe Care

In subsequent years there is an expectation that foster carers complete the equivalent of 6 days training. We also offer a Level 3 Diploma in Caring for children and young people for carers with between 18 months and 2 years' experience.

SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CARERS

Supervising Social Workers

Each fostering household is allocated a Supervising Social Worker (SSW). The SSW will develop meaningful relationships and to respond quickly when challenges arise. Their role includes,

- providing regular formal supervision;
- working with each member of the fostering household, including any birth children, to support carers in all aspects of their fostering role,
- supporting foster carers in their liaison with other professionals within Children's Services, the council and with partner agencies

Supervising Social Workers visit foster carers regularly and have capacity to visit frequently when required. During these visits Supervising Social Workers read the notes completed by the foster carers relating to the children in placement and discuss any matters arising.

During visits the Supervising Social Workers are observant of any health and safety, child protection, and standards of care issues which need to be addressed.

Supervising Social Workers offer advice to foster carers on how to work with children and young people in a way that is mindful and respectful of their individual backgrounds and experiences.

Placement Support Team

Kirklees has a Placement Support team, which includes specialist social workers and psychologists. Kirklees is developing a new model of support using the 6Ps Formulation Model. This will allow the team working with foster carers to understand any identified issues and develop a targeted action plan.

The 6 Ps formulation looks at the following areas,

Presenting Issues -	What is happening now?
Pre-disposing -	History, challenges, and vulnerabilities
Precipitating -	What are the triggers?
Perpetuating Factors -	What is keeping the issues going?
Protective Factors -	Positives and strengths
Predicting -	What happens if things go well?

The child's Social Worker, or the Supervising Social Worker can undertake this formulation with foster carers to develop an action plan. Social Workers will also discuss the formulation and any plans with the specialist Social Workers, and this may lead to a referral to the Emotional Wellbeing Clinic. The aim is to work earlier in the fostered child's life, therefore reducing difficult behaviours and improving relationships and outcomes.

Mockingbird

Kirklees has developed a new project called Mockingbird. This is an innovative specialist evidenced based method of supporting foster carers, by providing:

- expert peer support
- social activities
- regular joint planning and training sessions
- respite through sleepovers and short breaks.

Relationships are central to the model; a foster carer hub carer builds strong relationships with others in the Mockingbird constellation, to enable families to support each other and overcome problems before they escalate or lead to placement breakdown and help increase protective factors for children and young people.

The model is structured around the support and relationships that an extended family provides. It seeks to support the relationships between children, young people, and foster families, helping them to form a caring, resilient, and supportive community

Fostering Support Groups

The fostering service runs regular support groups in localities near to foster carers. These are often informal but can focus on new developments and changes to regulations and practice.

Kirklees Fostering Network (KFN)

Kirklees has an independent fostering network which offers support to their members. There is a 24/7 telephone support line open to foster carers. The KFN meets with senior managers on a monthly basis and together work on improving the fostering service.

Emergency Duty Team

There is a dedicated emergency duty team, which operates every evening and weekend, and foster carers have access to support from this team, in case of an emergency, i.e., when a foster carer believes that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm.

The Fostering Network

All Kirklees foster carers have membership to The Fostering Network paid for by the council. The Fostering Network provides newsletters and regular information, consultation, updates on national developments and training.

A helpline is available to members on 020 7401 9582 from 10.00am - 3.00pm Monday to Friday or foster carers can email them at info@fostering.net

Foster carer members of The Fostering Network can also access a 24-hour legal helpline for expert advice on allegations and help with any legal queries on 01384 885734 and a completely confidential stress support service on 01384 885734.

The Fostering Network provides independent support for foster carers if there has been an allegation against them. All Kirklees foster carers facing an allegation can access independent support, via their Supervising Social worker. The Fostering Network will allocate an independent support worker to provide expertise and guidance until the allegation or complaint against is resolved.

REVIEWS

Foster carers are reviewed on an annual basis. The foster carer review is a statutory process in which foster carers must participate. The purpose is to review the foster carer's approval to determine whether the foster carer and their household continue to be suitable to foster and, if so, whether the foster carer's terms continue to be appropriate

A foster carer's first annual review meeting will go to the Fostering Panel within 12 months of their original approval.

The Fostering Panel is made up of a cross section of people involved with or have knowledge of children and young people, which includes social workers, foster carers, local councillors, education professionals, medically trained individuals, and other independent members.

The Fostering Service has a dedicated independent Fostering Reviewing Officer and is seeking to employ a second. Reviews include reports from the social worker of any children placed, the carers' own report, health and safety checklist, individual safe care policy, the foster carers personal development plan (training log) and a report from their Supervising Social Worker.

In the event of a significant change in circumstances of a foster carer, reviews will take place more frequently and may be initiated by the Supervising Social Worker or the foster carer. The Fostering Panel considers any change to a carer's profile and/or review where a foster carer has been subject to an allegation or serious complaint, or the service has raised concerns about aspects of their caring.

The Agency Decision Maker considers all Reviews presented to the Fostering Panel in line with the Fostering Regulations.

REFUSAL OR TERMINATION OF APPROVAL

Foster Carers are required to give twenty-eight days' notice in writing if they wish to terminate their approval. This takes effect 28 days after receipt by the Fostering Service and cannot be retracted. Resignations are presented to the Fostering Panel as part of the service's quality assurance function.

The Fostering Panel also considers all terminations which are recommended by the Fostering Service. In the event of a termination which is recommended by the Fostering Service the foster carers may attend Panel to make representation and provided a separate report. The Panel makes a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker.

Foster carer(s) have twenty-eight days to appeal or to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) if they disagree with the decision of the panel.

The Agency Decision Maker makes the final decision

SECTION FOUR: TYPES OF FOSTERING

Kirklees fostering service offers 6 types of care; short term, long term, connected persons, short breaks for disabled children, respite care and supported lodgings.

Short-term

Carers are recruited to take children and young people when they first come into care from home if family members are unable to care for them.

Placements can last from a few days up to about two years whilst permanent plans are made. This is likely to be a return home or to family members or move on to an alternative permanent family, which for younger children is likely to be adoption. For older children, this could be either a long-term foster placement or a placement in a children's home.

Long-Term

These foster carers offer a home to a child or young person where the plan is that they cannot return to live at home, but they are likely to still be in contact with their family.

Long-term foster carers want to offer a permanent home to a child/young person until they leave care and live independently. Some children do return home to their birth family when they are older, but other young people remain under 'Staying Put' arrangements with their long-term foster carers after they have reached their 18th birthday.

Family and Friends as Carers (also known as Connected Person's)

The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 set out specific guidance for local authorities' responsibilities for Family and Friends carers, known as Connected Persons.

Relatives or friends who provide a home for a child or young person who is looked after in an emergency require initial approval by a Head of Service, under Regulation 24 and 25 of the Care Planning regulations.

If a child is looked after by the Local Authority, placements may only be made with a relative or friend if they have been assessed and approved as foster carers. In emergency situations a temporary placement with a connected person may be agreed for a period of up to 16 weeks following an initial assessment. This can be extended in some circumstances for a further 8 weeks.

Where it is decided that the immediate placement of a child is required and it is assessed as being in the child's best interest to place them with a person known to them, but who is not an approved foster carer, the person may be approved under Regulation 24 and 25 of the Care Planning Regulations 2010.

To be a fully approved Connected Persons Foster Carer an assessment of the ability /capacity to care for the child will be completed by the Connected Person's team and taken to foster panel with a recommendation.

Short Breaks

This is a specialist fostering scheme for disabled children and young people, who may have a learning, physical or sensory disability, significant health care needs, or a combination of these.

Skilled foster carers can look after children and young people on a regular basis and can provide a respite service for a child's parent, carers, or guardians.

Short breaks may include midweek or weekend overnight stays and/or a few days during the school holidays.

Short break carers have a Supervising Social Worker, and receive training, and support. Children are either assessed or referred for this service by Social Workers in the area teams or by Social Workers in the Disabled Children's Service.

Respite Carer

This type of care offers either a one-off or a regular package of care to either parents or other foster carers, who need a holiday. The foster carer will have the same skills and abilities of a short-term foster carer but will only look after the child for an evening, a weekend or at most a fortnight.

Supported lodgings

We provide supported lodgings to young people who are aged between 16 and 18. Our supported lodgings carers give young people somewhere stable, safe, and secure to live. The young people need support to develop the skills they require to make the transition to independent living. This could be anything from showing them how to cook or manage their money, teaching them how to apply for work or college, or helping them with important life skills in general.

Access to Foster Placements

The Placement Team deals with all requests for placements. The team are involved in requesting approval for the commissioning and approval of placements with Independent Fostering Agency placements, independent providers of residential childcare placements, specialist units, assessment units for mothers and babies, 16 plus, Semi-independent living arrangements for young people looked after, as well as Long Term Family Finding.

Foster Care Finance and Allowances

A foster carer is paid on a fortnightly basis. Finance officers based within the fostering service process all these payments. Payments are paid directly into your bank account.

If you need to contact our finance officers about your payment slips, they can be reached on PPSS.Finance@kirklees.gov.uk

Foster carer payments are based upon an allowance, a skills payment and a continuous service payment. The tables below show the amount which is paid in each area.

Skills Level Payments – the financial payment provided for the Skills Level a foster carer has achieved (as of February 2021)

Skill level	Rate
1	£101.40
2	£126.75
3	£177.45

Skill level	Rate
4	£228.15

Level 1 progression – is paid when a foster carer has completed a Journey 2 Foster Training portfolio, which demonstrates that National Fostering Standards have been met.

Level 2 progression – is paid when a foster carer has completed all mandatory training, their TSD workbook and has undertaken a minimum of 4 further days or equivalent hours training or activities (classroom training, work with the placement support team, online training) to meet identified needs within the first year of practice.

Level 3 progression – is paid when a foster carer has completed the Level 3 Diploma or have a relevant equivalent qualification.

Level 4 - is paid in certain circumstances. For example, if a child placed is in receipt of the highest rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) it will be paid.

It can also be paid based on the assessed individual needs of a child and the skills /experience a foster carer demonstrates to meet these. The decision to pay Level 4 is agreed at the time of placement.

Allowances – these are paid directly to cover the care of a child or young person placed with a foster carer

Age range	Rate
0 – 4	£144.86
5 - 10	£165.01
11 - 15	£205.42
16+	£249.89

Continuous Service Award (CSA) – is paid in recognition of a foster carer's ongoing practice and commitment to caring for our children. On the anniversary of the foster carer's approval with Kirklees they are entitled to receive a CSA equivalent to £10.00 per week for each year of service. This CSA is payable up to a maximum of 15 years' service.

Additional child payment - a payment of £60.84 per week is paid for each additional child or young person placed.

SECTION FIVE: STRUCTURE

FOSTERING TEAM STRUCTURE

The Fostering Service sits in Resources, Improvement and Partnerships, within the Children's Services directorate.

The role of the Fostering Service is to recruit, train, supervise and support foster carers including kinship Carers, who are referred to as Connected Person or Friends & Family Foster Carer.

The Head of Service for Homes for Children is a member of the Resources, Improvement and Partnerships Senior Leadership team

Structure of the Service

Director for Children's Services

Mel Meggs

|

Service Director - Resources, Improvement and Partnerships

Tom Brailsford

|

Head of Homes for Children

Sara Miles

|

Service Manager - Fostering

Anna Gledhill

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6 Fostering Team Managers

DESCRIPTION OF FOSTERING TEAM

The Head of Service for Homes for Children and a dedicated Fostering Service Manager, manage the Fostering Service.

There are 6 Team Managers who manage the different teams in the service including the Fostering Recruitment team and the Fostering Communications & Marketing Officer, the Supervising Social Workers, who work with, supervise, and support Kirklees Foster carers, the Connected Persons team, and the Fostering Panel and the Independent Fostering Reviewing Officer.

A Business Support Team which includes providing support to the Fostering Panel, is managed by a designated Business Support Manager,

All the Fostering Managers and Social Workers are registered with Social Work England and are professionally qualified. All Managers and Social Workers hold a relevant social work qualification. The Team Managers have lengthy employment experience in children's services /childcare and there is a wide range of experience among staff across the fostering service; all fostering supervising social workers have held relevant employment experience before joining the service.

FOSTERING STAFF.

- Anna Gledhill- Service Manager
- Charlotte Jackson- Agency Decision Maker
- Angela Wray- Team Manager Recruitment
- Rachel Head- Team Manager Connected Persons
- Andrew Parkinson- Team Manager Connected Persons
- Niam Cassin- Fostering Team Manager
- Rob Taylor- Fostering Team Manager
- Lucy Fearnley- Fostering Panel Manager

WHERE TO FIND US

- The Director of Children's Services is based at, 1st Floor, Civic Centre 3, High Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2YZ.
- The Service Director for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships, is based at 1st Floor, Civic Centre 3, High Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2YZ
- The Fostering Service is based in Civic Centre 3, High Street, HD1 2NF.
- The Service is open from 8.45 – 5.15 (Mon – Thurs) Fri 8.45 – 4.45.
- The telephone number is 01484 221000 and the email address is PPSS.FosteringBSO@kirklees.gov.uk

There is ample public parking available within walking distance and access to the building for people with a disability.

Mobile and agile working is in place across the service, to meet the needs of Foster Carers and support the delivery of high-quality services.

An answer phone service is available out of office hours. There is also a free phone service for fostering enquiries on 0800 389 0086.

Information about fostering and enquiries can be made, via the web site at <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/fostering/index.aspx>

The Children's Services Family Support and Child Protection Emergency Duty Service provides an out of hours service for contact in an emergency on 01484 456848.

Kirklees Fostering Network (KFN) provide a 24/7 Service, 365 days a year dedicated support service for Kirklees Foster carers on 07866 635147.