

Section 7 – Legal Framework

7.1 Statement Of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose aims to provide clear information about Caerphilly County Borough Council's fostering services, principles and standards of care. It has been produced in accordance with the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Fostering Services in the county borough of Caerphilly are located within the Family Placement Team at Avenue House, Caerphilly.

The Family Placement Team are committed to the development of all aspects of the fostering services in consultation with you and foster children and young people.

In brief, the aims and objectives of the current Statement of Purpose are as follows:

- to safeguard the welfare of children and young people who need to be looked after to enable them to reach their full potential and to maximise their life chances
- To provide a range of family placements to include: short term and long term foster care, respite care, permanency and placement choice for children and young people entering the care system.
- To ensure that any child or young person or young person placed with foster carers have their identified needs met and is in receipt of the best possible care.

Furthermore, the fostering service aims to:

- To ensure that when it is necessary for children and young people to leave their families, there is a range of suitable placements available to meet their needs.
- To ensure that fostering services meet the requirements of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003.
- To aspire to achieve best practice in fostering services as recommended by Fostering Network National Standards for Fostering.
- To actively use management information to improve and develop fostering services.
- To review the recruitment and retention strategy for foster carers.

- To ensure that foster carers receive adequate training, support and financial remuneration.

If you would like to see the full version of the current Statement of Purpose, please ask your allocated worker for a copy.

7.2 Fostering Legislation

Over recent years there have been, and continue to be significant changes in the way in which fostering services are provided.

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued The Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003 and National Minimum Standards. These have a legal status, which Local Authorities and Independent foster agencies have to comply. The authority is inspected annually against the regulations. One of the purposes of the inspection is to improve fostering services provided to children and young people. You may be contacted by the CSSIW in the future about the annual inspection of fostering services provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

7.3 Annual Inspections from CSSIW

Each year Caerphilly County Borough Council Fostering Services will undergo an Inspection by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

The inspector would be asking children looked after, foster carers, and social workers what they think about the fostering service. They will look at everybody's information to comment or recommend areas for improvement or praise.

They would also want to know if the Fostering Services are supporting you to ensure that the child/ren in your care are safe, happy in school, in their health, activities and contact with family and friends etc.

At the time of the inspection you will be sent a questionnaire, which we hope you will find time to complete and return directly to the CSSIW. The Inspector will also choose a number of carers to interview face to face. Anything you tell the CSSIW will remain confidential unless what you say leads them to be concerned about the safety or well-being of anyone.

If you would like have sight of the CSSIW reports you can access these on line at <http://wales.gov.uk/cssiwsuite/newcssiw/publications/lareviews/20112/>