



The Children's Family Trust uphold the importance of good quality foster care for children and in doing so invests in foster carers who can provide high standards of care for children, meeting their physical, emotional and intellectual needs.

The Trust's philosophy is founded on commitment to the long-term care of children and the family for life ethos. It is a foundation promoting partnership between carers working with the Trust and local authorities and a matching process, which provides **stability and continuity for children**, who have had uncertainty and disruption in their lives.



Working in Partnership

There is a strong **commitment to partnership** working; foster carers provide direct care to children, sometimes in times of crisis and often when crisis is represented in challenge and confusion. The Trust acknowledges the importance of **regular supervision and support** directed at pre-empting crisis and in avoiding disruption and breakdown.

As an agency the Trust is committed to the principles of **safer caring** and ensuring that in practice the needs of children with carers who have the **skills and experience** to meet their needs. This is essential but of course children who have been placed at risk when living with their birth families will challenge boundaries, which is why the routines and boundaries that are in place need to be robust. Risk assessment is central to providing

Respect for the Child

The child is of paramount concern and is at the core of what we do. Essentially, a child is an individual and the Trust upholds the principles that help the child grow and develop. We encourage that carers provide positive opportunities that help the child fulfil their potential.

Learning, Development and Support.

To help develop skills and **ensure that children are kept safe, enjoy and achieve, grow and develop, carers are provided with training.** This is in the form of focussed training, information sharing at foster carer meetings and on-going support and supervision, all of which contributes to the carer(s) individual training portfolio.

Protecting children from harm and neglect and helping them stay safe

Quotes from Ofsted report 2010

The calibre of foster carers is high and they demonstrate a strong commitment to providing the children with long-term stable caring placements.+

Children are treated with respect and the matching process involves them, where appropriate in decisions about the placement. The process is conducted at a pace to meet the child's needs.+

There are highly effective systems in place for ensuring that children are protected. Staff and foster carers are very well trained and safeguarding is at the forefront of practice. The service provides annual

Foster Carer Charter



safeguarding training for all carers and this is supplemented with monthly supervision and unannounced visits to the home of the carers. Detailed risk assessments are carried out. Foster carers have a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and it is evident that these are taken seriously.+

%Safeguarding is a key responsibility for the staff and they demonstrate a detailed knowledge of child protection procedures. In addition, staff are positive about promoting equality and diversity. This ensure that the children are given the opportunity to develop their potential in a safe and caring environment.+

Helping Children Achieve

%The agency strongly supports equality and diversity. Staff and foster carers have a positive approach to diversity and are enthusiastic about helping the children to achieve their potential.+

%The children are positively supported to achieve their educational potential. In addition, the agency provides the services of an educational adviser who offers excellent support for children who experience difficulties in the school setting.:

%The adviser will offer one-to-one tuition, support in the classroom setting and act as an educational advocate for children over particular issues. The service is provided at no cost to the placing authority. This is a positive approach to equality and diversity. All children currently placed by the agency are attempting full-time education. Foster parents said of the adviser, %he helped our child to learn how to feel safe in the classroom after a lengthy absence, she is brilliant++

Making a Positive Contribution

%The agency actively supports and promotes family contact where it is in the best interests of young people. This emphasised through training and support for foster carers who feel confident in their role during contact arrangements. Children are satisfied with the way contact is carried out. The consistent support from their foster carers enables them to cope with these often sensitive situations.+

%All children and young people are encouraged to attend their formal reviews. They are supported by the social worker to record their feelings about their placement.+

Foster carers are regularly consulted about any changes affecting the way the service is operated. A newsletter is sent out to all carers with information about the agency and good news items.+

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

%Foster carers play a crucial part in preparing young people for their independence and the agency provides training to equip carers for this role.+

Organisation

%The agency has a clear strategy working with the foster carers. There are robust arrangements in place for out of hours support. Foster carers enjoy working with this agency and spoke positively about the staff, from our perspective the team have been a great support, we could not ask for much better and we are delighted to be a part of their team.q+

Contact details for the person responsible for implementing the aims of the charter

The Children's Family Trust, Hanbury Court, Harris Business Park, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4DJ.

Name		Signature	
Foster Carer/s Name/s		Date	
Signatures		Signatures	