



avanti fostering

Statement of **Purpose**



Avanti Fostering Statement of Purpose



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Avanti was established in 2020 as an independent fostering agency and a private limited company under the Companies Act 1985. Our founder supports the vision that every child or young person deserves the opportunity to experience a loving family environment within a caring home, with support provided into adulthood. Therefore, in addition to providing long-term placements, we also work to provide short-term, emergency and respite fostering services.

Avanti's Statement of Purpose has been created to meet the requirements and comply with the following regulatory legislation and guidance. This is reviewed annually by the director and registered manager:

- The Fostering Service Regulations 2011, amended July 2013 and April 2014
- The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services (2011)
- The Care Standards Act 2000
- The Care Planning, Placement & Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- The Care Planning, Placement & Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013
- The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) 2015
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Vol 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review 2010
- Delegation of Authority: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Vol 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review 2010 (July 2013)
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Vol 4: Fostering Services (2011)
- Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers: Amendment to the Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Vol 4: Fostering Services (July 2013)
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.





AIM

Ensuring that the children always remain at the core of what we do, Avanti has been created to provide children within the local services with the opportunity to have a sense of 'family'. Aims of the services are to provide a secure and personalised service that is suited to the individual needs of each child. Focused on achieving the highest quality in foster care, we aim to deliver this service with the following competencies:

- Being transparent and honest to all parties
- Ensuring the safety and security of the child is prioritised
- Providing education and training opportunities not only for the foster child but also their carer
- Being flexible to suit the needs of all parties
- Always being a reliable and stable constant
- Ensuring we remain up to date on all knowledge to confirm best practice is implemented
- Being compliant with all statutory and regulatory compliance.

Through these competencies we have the following objectives:

- To provide children with a safe and secure environment where they feel nurtured within a stimulating environment that facilitates them reaching their goals and fulfilling their potential
- To ensure that foster carers feel valued and respected and are included with clear and transparent communication on all relevant matters that pertain to their foster child
- To help foster siblings remain together or to ensure that contact is continued
- To have a holistic approach to care that is positive, inclusive and focused on core values
- To train carers and provide opportunities for them to develop their skills which will benefit the total quality of the service
- To consult children on the care and involve them where appropriate on matters relating to their care planning
- Promote a diverse and varied foster carer base to ensure that the diversity of children can be matched
- To facilitate specialist placements, such as for older children, those with special needs or those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

THE STRUCTURE OF AVANTI

Avanti operates as a limited company in London, as an independent fostering agency taking placements for fees from local authorities. At present, we employ a specialist highly qualified team.



PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

We believe that no matter the length of time, or need for a placement, every child should have the opportunity to be part of a family and therefore we offer the following services in addition to 'family for life' foster places:

- Sibling group placements
- Single placements
- Assessment placements
- Complex needs placements
- Placements and assessments of young parents with babies
- Support for young people moving toward independence.

To ensure that foster children have a placement that reflects their individuality we recruit a wide range of foster carers, which includes carers of ethnic minorities and those with language skills.

Carers are all inducted and provided with details of local schools, health and recreational facilities. Children are encouraged to participate in their local community through participating in local clubs and activities to benefit their statutory education. The foster carer will be provided with a personal education plan (PEP), supported at meetings with the school and encouraged to take a proactive role in helping the child reach their full potential.

As a limited company all accounts are available on public record or can be requested from head office.





SELECTION, REVIEW AND SUPPORT FOR CARERS

The recruitment of appropriate foster carers is a core factor in the success of our placements; as a result we place substantial time and resource in ensuring that the right people are selected to provide foster children with a happy and positive experience.

The majority of our carers are recruited through a mix of direct and indirect advertising, in addition to word of mouth and personal referral to the service.

Recruitment of foster carers follows a two-step process, whereby potential carers are vetted and checked before progressing to an assessment stage. To ensure that the right people are recruited into the service, they are assessed using the British Association for Adoption and Fostering Form F procedure and required to attend 'skills to foster' training. Upon completion, the fostering panel will analyse the results of the assessment and make recommendations to Avanti about whether they should be accepted as a suitable person to foster.

This process is completed within an eight-month timescale and, once accepted as a foster carer, a detailed handbook is issued, and a supervising social worker is assigned.

To support our foster carers, we offer 24/7 access to support services, including an out of hours telephone line. Additionally, 24 visits a year will be completed by the supervising social worker. These appointments are held twice monthly and offer a chance for an informal home visit in addition to the required supervision.

Foster carers are encouraged to participate in support groups and share experiences with other foster carers who are experiencing similar situations. Training sessions will also be provided and include information surrounding the following:

- Difficulty creating a bond or attachment
- Safe caring and allegations
- Contact issues
- Challenging behaviour and how to manage it
- Substance abuse and drug awareness
- De-escalation skills and dealing with difficult situations
- Healthy eating and exercise
- Understanding the referral process
- Understanding the child perspective through the placement journey.

LOCATIONS

The London Office conducts all business pertaining to the services with hopes to expand into the east and west midlands.





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