



# Acuba Fostering Statement of Purpose

**This statement of purpose has been completed in relation to the fostering service that is to be delivered by Acuba Fostering which will consist of:**

- (a) a statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service, and**
- (b) a statement as to the services and facilities by the fostering service.**

## Introduction

Acuba Fostering Limited is a private company registered under the Companies Act 2006 with company number 15802874. The registered address is Suite 3, 47 Vallance Road, London, E1 5AB.

This document sets out the Statement of Purpose of Acuba Fostering as an independent fostering provider and has been developed in accordance with appropriate statutory law and regulations, including:

- The Children Act 1989 (and its later amendments including CA 2004) Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services
- National Minimum Standards Fostering Services (2011)
- The Fostering Service Regulations (2002 and 2011)
- The Children Act 2000
- The Care Standards Act (2000)
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.

Alongside the Statement of Purpose, Acuba Fostering will provide children and young people with a Welcome Guide, which is written in an age-appropriate way and will be available in several languages, depending on the need and language of preference of children placed with Acuba Fostering.

We believe in embedding the Golden Thread throughout our service delivery, ensuring that children's voices and views remain central to every part of our process, from recruitment to placement, and through children's continuous care. This means that all of our practices are guided by the individual needs and wishes of the children in our care, fostering an environment of constant reflection and improvement.

## Our Vision and Mission

### Vision:

Our vision is to consistently provide children in care with a safe, stable home and passionate foster parents who nurture and inspire them to achieve their full potential.

Through the Golden Thread, we will ensure that the vision is not only carried out by our foster carers but is also informed by the feedback and aspirations of the children we care for. The children's voices will influence their care planning and foster carer training, ensuring their personal needs and dreams are at the heart of the service.

### Mission:

Acuba Fostering recognises the impact on children who find themselves in care, and we aim to provide children with stability in their lives, with the opportunity to experience a positive and memorable childhood.

Acuba Fostering aims to work alongside placing authorities to provide opportunities for children in care to live with approved foster parents who have received high-quality bespoke training.

**Acuba Fostering is committed to promoting a positive childhood for each child, as we view each child as unique with their individual needs and dreams and the right to equal opportunities. Safeguarding is at the heart of Acuba Fostering whilst children are in the care of their foster parents.**

Foster parents at Acuba Care will receive ongoing support and training following their approval to ensure they have the opportunity to continuously develop and provide the highest quality of care to foster children.

Acuba Care places a high value on personal development, and this will extend to foster carers who will be provided with high-quality personalised training. Agency staff will be recruited who share this value and can support carers.

### Equality and Diversity

Acuba Fostering holds the value of equal opportunity central in every aspect of the service. All employees and foster parents receive training, support, and induction in anti-discriminatory practices. Acuba Fostering values diversity and is dedicated to upholding its mission by not discriminating against anybody based on their colour, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, condition, political opinions, religion, or other factors.

In line with the Golden Thread, our equal opportunities practices will be continuously refined based on feedback from children and foster carers, ensuring that we meet diverse needs and backgrounds. Children's cultural, religious, and personal identities will shape our recruitment and matching processes, and we will ensure that their feedback is central to policy development and service delivery.

### Participation and Consultation

We place a high value on children, young people and foster carers' feedback on their lived experience within fostering. During visits, supervising social workers are expected to engage foster children to understand their wishes, feelings, and views regarding the care they are receiving. Foster carer birth children's views will be gathered, which will form a perspective of fostering and how, as an agency, we can further impact the lives of children positively.

The purpose of consultation is to obtain regular feedback, enabling children and foster carers to play a central role in service development, as they are at the heart of Acuba Fostering.

The Golden Thread is exemplified in our consultation approach: children and foster carers' views will be continuously sought and integrated into every aspect of the care process. Whether through regular feedback sessions, one-to-one meetings, or participation in training evaluations, their feedback shapes our care practices and service improvements.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Acuba Fostering aims to work with local authorities to ensure children in care can live with approved foster carers who can provide the stability for them to flourish and achieve.

Acuba Fostering aims to ensure that children's needs, wishes, and feelings are integral to every step of the care process. This includes ensuring children have a say in the matching process, participate actively in their care planning meetings, and that their feedback leads to improvements in foster carer training and service provision. By consistently embedding these elements, we align our practices with the Golden Thread approach.

Acuba Fostering aims to:

- Approve foster carers who have been vetted and assessed through a stringent process which involves experienced assessors and a panel process.
- Recruit foster carers from diverse backgrounds to reflect the range of needs of children that come into foster care.
- Promote a foster child's identity through facilitating family time with their birth family as well as ensuring their cultural and any religious affiliation is met.
- Match foster care placements with individualised support plans for children and young people, taking into consideration culture, identity, strengths and any areas where support may be required.

- Supervise and train foster carers by skilled staff to ensure there is a clear development plan alongside completion of their TSD within the first year of being approved.
- Provide face-to-face training, as well as online platforms and workshops, to ensure continuous development and maintenance of standards.
- Support foster carers in promoting the health, education, and hobbies of the foster children in their care.
- Support foster carers in registering their foster children with the GP, Opticians, and Dentist.
- Collaborate with the foster child's professional network to ensure their needs are effectively advocated for and their welfare is prioritised.
- Ensure safeguarding is at the heart of the service, including the reporting and recording of concerns, and providing suitable training for staff and carers to recognise abuse.
- Ensure suitably skilled and experienced staff are recruited to support foster carers.
- Ensure that a foster child is supported to feel part of the community which they access and can contribute to.

### Principles and Standards of Care

All foster carers will have an annual review following their approval, which will provide an opportunity to evaluate their skills and dedication to the fostering role. This is an opportunity to celebrate outstanding practice as well as identify any areas of development.

Foster Carers will be given the chance to comment on the services Acuba Fostering has provided them. Alongside feedback from children, carers who have fostered their own birth children and a foster child's social worker will form an aspect of the review.

Unless there are issues with their practice that render foster carers unfit to continue fostering, the review will usually recommend that the carers continue fostering.

While supervising social workers will also spend time with the foster child, listening to them and addressing any issues related to the placement, the supervisory function is predominantly to support the foster carer to ensure placement stability and support the progress of the child in their care.

Foster carers' annual reviews will not only assess their performance but also include detailed feedback from children, birth children, and professionals involved in the placement. This ensures that the Golden Thread is maintained, making sure the children's voices shape the quality and future direction of care.

## **Service Provided**

All aspects of the Acuba Fostering service will be compliant with The Fostering Services Regulations 2011.

Foster carers will be recruited from diverse backgrounds to provide a range of suitably skilled foster carers to place children in the care of the placing authorities.

Foster carers will complete a Skills to Foster training to give them insight into fostering, as well as explore the expectations of their role as a potential foster carer. Foster carers will undergo an assessment process by qualified Form F assessors who are experienced and skilled to identify strengths as well as any vulnerabilities of a foster applicant before being presented to Panel.

A matching process will precede any placement of a child with foster carers at Acuba Fostering. This ensures that a child's needs have been determined and can be met by a foster carer. Acuba Fostering will encourage a pre-placement meeting, where possible, to further ensure a strong matching process and good fit. Acuba fostering will ensure due consideration is given to a foster family and a foster child's religious and cultural needs, as well as the skill set and experience of a carer.

Alongside monthly supervisions for foster carers, they will have access to a 24-hour telephone support should they face any difficulties.

For foster carers who are presented by complex behaviours displayed by a foster child, they will be supported with behaviour management strategies as well as having access to Acuba Fostering ASD/Autism lead for children with this diagnosis. Corporal punishment will not be used under any circumstances.

Foster carers will have access to monthly foster carer support groups and a therapist, should this be beneficial, to address any difficulties that present during their fostering experience. Monthly foster carer support groups will happen through video-calling to facilitate ease of access for carers to attend, as well as face-to-face at the Brady Arts & Community Centre, 192-196, Hanbury St, London E1 5HU.

Foster carers will have access to a range of training modalities, including face-to-face sessions, e-learning, and workshops that incorporate peer evaluation.

Foster carers will be expected to keep records for children placed with them, participate in placement planning meetings and work alongside their supervising social worker to progress the foster child's care plan.

Alongside the support of the supervising social worker, foster carers will have access to Shah Rahman, Acuba Fostering's Wellbeing practitioner and ASD/Autism lead. Shah will support foster carers by providing a space to process any challenging behaviours displayed by children, helping them understand their role and implement effective strategies.

A foster carer's supervising social worker will ensure that regular home visits are undertaken, both announced and unannounced, where foster children are seen, and their views gathered. The supervising social worker will provide support and guidance to carers, identify training needs, ensure the health and safety of the home is being upheld, as well as ensure timely updates and foster carer records are being shared with the placing authority.

Foster carers will be supported to attend LAC Reviews, PEP meetings and any strategy meetings for a fostering child, alongside ensuring Statutory Health Assessments for a child are completed. Acuba Fostering will support foster carers to register foster children with GPs, Opticians and dentists.

Any safeguarding matters will be addressed following Acuba Fostering's Safeguarding Policy.

Types of placements that will be provided by Acuba Fostering will be:

- Short-term and Long-term Placements
- Emergency Placements
- Short Breaks & Specialist Placements
- Respite Placements
- Solo Placements
- Siblings Placements
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

Acuba Fostering recognises that young people may choose to Stay Put with their foster carers, and this arrangement can be facilitated.

Each type of placement will be personalised based on the wishes and preferences of the child, ensuring the care provided is aligned with the child's identity, needs, and goals. The matching process and subsequent placement arrangements will be continuously refined based on children's feedback to ensure an optimal fit between foster carers and children.

#### Finance –

Foster carers will receive a weekly fostering allowance for the foster children placed in their care. The complexity and type of placement will determine the fostering allowance.

Every year, carers will receive two weeks paid holiday. Foster carers will be classed as self-employed and, as such, will be responsible for their own taxes and national insurance.

#### Insurance –

Acuba Fostering has identified comprehensive insurance which will meet Ofsted's standards. Foster carers will be expected to ensure their household insurance company is aware of their role as foster carers. Foster carers are required to ensure they have their own household contents insurance.

## **Management and Organisational Structure –**

The proposed Responsible Individual (RI) is the Director of Acuba Fostering and will act as the Agency Decision Maker. As part of the RI role, they have oversight of the agency. The proposed Manager of the agency will be responsible for the day-to-day running and operational responsibilities, and alongside the Responsible Individual, will make up the senior management team (SMT). The Manager will also act as the Panel Advisor.

The responsible individual and Manager of the agency are both qualified children's social workers, who collectively bring years of fostering experience to their roles in Acuba Fostering, having held several fostering roles within IFA (Independent Fostering Agencies) as well as local authorities.

The SMT brings leadership experiences of running services in the past, which have included Ofsted-registered services. The SMT meet regularly and will recruit staff into the organisation according to Acuba Fostering's recruitment strategy.

### **Fostering Panel –**

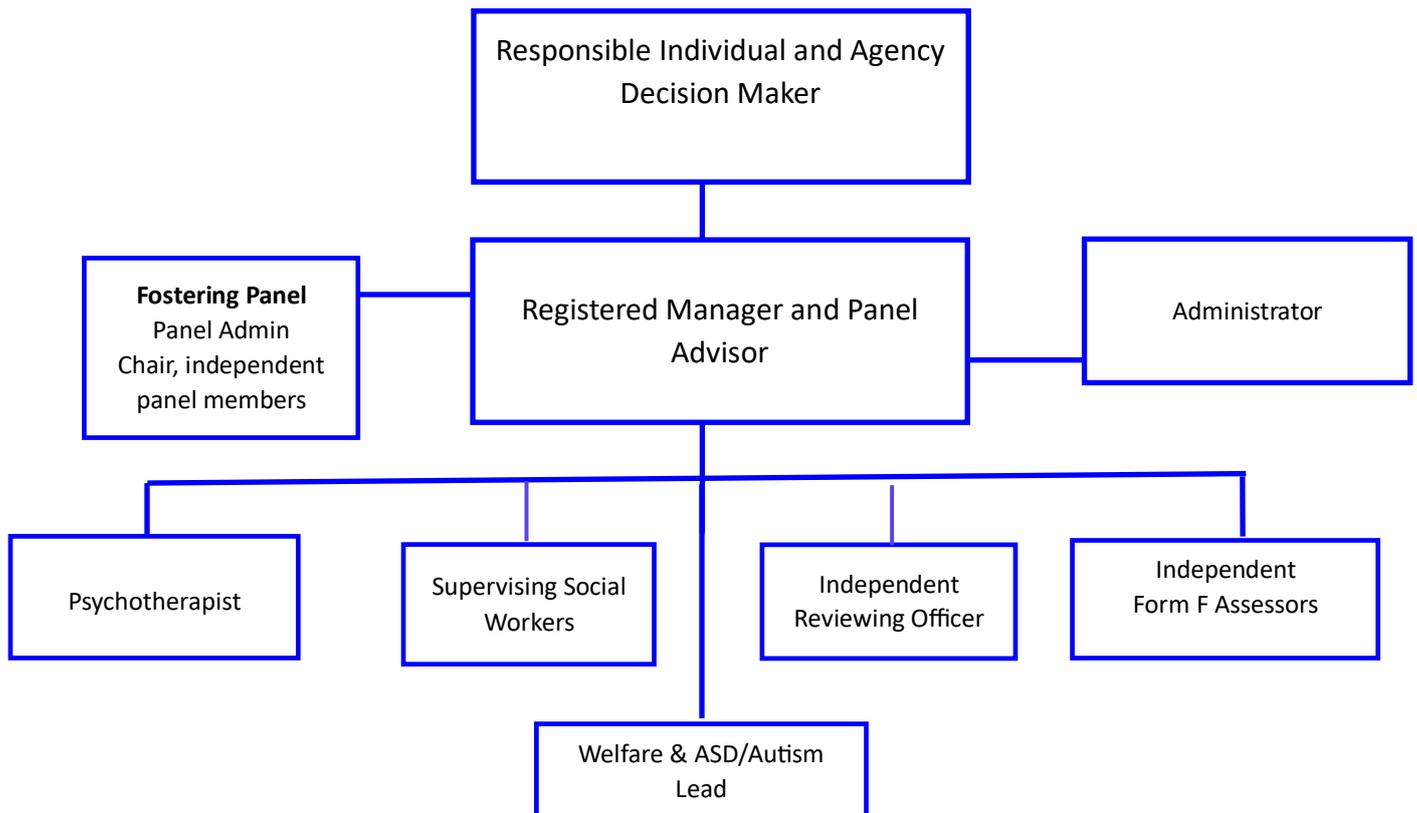
The Fostering Panel's function will be to provide an independent view on the suitability of foster carers and promote the welfare of foster children. Panels will consider the approval and termination of foster carers. The fostering Panel will serve as another quality assurance mechanism for Acuba Fostering.

Our fostering panels will convene frequently and receive medical input when needed. The Independent Panel Chair will be a Qualified Social Worker with significant experience working with children in care.

The fostering panel will comprise of:

- The Panel Chair - Qualified Social Worker
- Vice-Chair - Qualified Teacher
- Independent Panel Members - Registered Nurse, Care Leaver, Qualified Social Worker, Qualified Teacher and a therapist.

## Management and Organisational Structure



Leadership at Acuba Fostering will ensure that the Golden Thread is reflected in all operational decisions, including those concerning staffing, training, and service development. The Responsible Individual (RI) and senior management team will ensure that children's feedback is continuously integrated into organisational practices, reinforcing the agency's commitment to ongoing improvement and excellence.

## **Recruitment and Assessment of Foster Carers**

### Recruitment

Recruitment of potential fostering carers will be in line with Acuba Fostering's recruitment strategy, which is to have a range of approved foster carers representing all parts of the community. Foster carers will be recruited from diverse backgrounds, cultures and religious beliefs that will promote a positive match for children referred into the agency. This will further aim to meet the demands of the placing authorities and help towards positive matching.

Our recruitment process is not only designed to identify capable and caring individuals but is also shaped by the ongoing needs of the children in our care. The recruitment strategy will be informed by the voices of children, ensuring that the carers we approve are not only competent but also prepared to meet the diverse and changing needs of the children. Throughout the assessment process, foster carers will receive feedback on their suitability, ensuring the Golden Thread is woven into every stage of their journey with us.

## Application Process -

Potential carers will contact the agency, which will provide an opportunity to find out more about the agency and fostering. During this initial enquiry, an Enquiry form will be completed to determine the initial suitability of the potential foster carer.

Following a positive outcome of the enquiry, should the potential applicant meet a range of criteria, a home visit will be arranged, alongside an information pack about fostering being provided to them.

## Home visit –

An initial home visit will be completed with the potential applicant. Potential foster carers will receive a welcome pack containing forms to complete, including a consent form that authorises Acuba Fostering to conduct checks, such as those with local authorities, and a DBS check. Applicants will complete an application form for the agency, which will include details of the applicant's family as well as other details such as their work history.

## Stage 1 – Statutory check

Following the completion of an application form and consent then to complete checks, Acuba Fostering will undertake Stage 1 checks which will include:

- DBS
- Local Authority – social services
- Work Reference
- School reference
- Medical
- Health and Safety Assessment

Applicants will be invited to participate in a Skills to Foster training, which will provide insight into the expectations of the role.

Following a satisfactory outcome of the checks, applicants will move on to Stage 2 of the assessment process and be allocated to a Form F assessor.

If, during Stage 1, it is determined that the applicants are not to progress onto Stage 2, then the applicants will not have the right to have the decision reviewed by Acuba Fostering or the Fostering Independent Review Mechanism (IRM). The IRM is independent of the fostering service provider and provides a review panel to assess a situation and make recommendations.

## Stage 2:

Applicants will meet with a Form F Assessor and a comprehensive assessment will be completed, which includes a number of areas such as an applicant's childhood, work history, their own birth children's views, their parenting capacity and motivation to fostering amongst other areas.

Following a successful recommendation by the assessor for approval, the Form F assessment will be shared with panel members and presented at the Panel, with the applicants invited to attend. The function of the Panel is to provide a quality assurance on the assessment process and an opportunity to explore any areas with the assessor and/or applicants. Following a positive recommendation for approval by the Panel, the ADM will then write to the applicants advising them of their approval as Foster Carers.

If at Stage 2 it is decided that the applicants are not suitable to foster, then a brief report is completed to demonstrate the decision-making and the applicant's views are sought. Upon receipt of the applicant's comments or within 10 days of the applicant being advised that their application is not progressing, the decision-making report with comments will be presented to the fostering Panel.

Applicants have the right to have their determination reviewed within 28 days, with a referral made to the IRM. The IRM is a process where prospective or current foster carers can request an independent review of a decision made by their fostering service provider, specifically when they disagree with a "qualifying determination" letter.

#### Following Approval –

Applicants who have been approved will be considered as newly approved foster carers. They will sign a foster carer agreement, which will outline the expectations of their role. They will complete an induction into their role and be allocated a supervising social worker. Foster carers will have their personal development plan (PDP) completed, which will be a collaborative approach considering any recommendations of the Form F Assessor, Panel, ADM and the newly approved foster carer. The PDP aims to support foster carers in their role and invites them to attend regular TSD workshops to achieve this.

#### Annual Reviews –

Newly approved Foster Carers will have their first annual review within 12 months of being approved and then every 3 years thereafter. It is an opportunity to appreciate the positive contribution they have made to fostering. The review, which will be informed by the views of birth children, foster children and professionals, will then have to be presented to the Panel. The foster carer will have an opportunity to comment on the quality of supervision and support they have received from the agency. Following a recommendation for re-approval, the ADM will then write to the foster carer advising them of the outcome.

## Complaints

Acuba Fostering have a complaints policy which they will adhere to and will consider each complaint seriously. Complaints will be acknowledged and investigated, with outcomes being provided in a timely manner.

We will ensure that children are fully involved in any safeguarding process that affects them and are empowered to voice concerns freely. All feedback, including complaints or concerns, is taken seriously and directly influences service improvements and safeguarding practices. By maintaining open communication, we ensure that safeguarding is embedded within the Golden Thread framework, prioritising children's rights and voices.

Please get in touch with our office by phone or in writing if you would like a copy of Acuba Fostering's Complaint Policy or to raise a complaint.

If you would like to raise a complaint or if you have any concerns regarding the welfare of a child placed at Acuba Fostering, please email [info@acubafostering.co.uk](mailto:info@acubafostering.co.uk) or call 07743 662684.

### Complaints About Senior Management -

If there is a complaint about the Registered Manager, then the Responsible Individual is to be contacted.

If the complaint is about the Responsible Individual, an Independent Complaints Officer will be appointed.

Complaints related to senior management are to be sent to: [info@acubafostering.co.uk](mailto:info@acubafostering.co.uk) or call 07743 662684.

### Safeguarding concerns:

Please email the office at [info@acubafostering.co.uk](mailto:info@acubafostering.co.uk) or call 07743 662684 and request to speak to the Registered Manager and Designated Safeguarding Officer with any safeguarding concerns.

OFSTED –

The regulatory body, OFSTED, can be contacted by any child or young person who wishes to raise a complaint/allegation about the service received from the foster carer or any issues related to the service received from Acuba Fostering.

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate 4,  
Store Street,  
Manchester  
M1 2 WD  
Tel. 0300 123 1231  
Email : [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

