



Statement of Purpose

Young Person's Guide

Who or what is Affinity Fostering Services Ltd?

It is a private company that only works in Fostering.

Why is it called Affinity Fostering Services?

The staff chose this name because Affinity means ‘a natural liking for or an understanding of someone or something’. In our case, it is a liking for working with children and young people to provide them with nurturing Foster Carers who will keep them safe and help achieve the best outcomes.

The staff at Affinity Fostering chose to work at Affinity because they believe in the same values: Enhancing and Empowering Young People’s Lives.

What is a Statement of Purpose?

It’s like a company’s ‘public’ promise. The Government Regulations say that Affinity must clearly outline how the service is managed and the systems we have established to recruit, train, supervise, and support our foster carers and young people. The Statement of Purpose contains all of this.

So, who is the Statement of Purpose written for?

The Statement of Purpose is for:

- Children and young people
- Relatives if they want a copy
- Prospective and approved fostering families
- Social Workers working with Affinity Fostering
- Councillors
- Fostering Panel members
- Office for Standards in Children's Services Education and Skills (Ofsted)
- Any member of the public who asks for a copy

Is this the whole of the Statement of Purpose?

No, this is a short guide for children and young people, but you can have a full one if you would like one. Just ask your Foster Carer or Affinity Social Worker. You can also find it on our website home page (at the bottom) www.affinityfostering.com.

What does Affinity want to get out of Fostering?

The staff team work together to ensure that:

- All children are safe and well looked after.
- All children live in an environment of warmth, stability and consistency.
- All children grow up as part of a stable and loving family.
- As you grow up and your needs change, the services you receive meet those needs.
- We work in close partnership with your social workers and their managers.
- We provide consistent support, availability, and supervision to our Foster Carers to help them be the best they can be.
- Everyone is treated fairly.

What do Affinity Fostering and their Foster Carers do?

Affinity recruits and trains Foster Carers and then works with different local authorities, ensuring that the children who are unable to live at home are carefully matched with our fostering families.

Some Foster Carers have their own children, while some do not. They can live in cities, the countryside, or near the beach.

Our Foster Carers may look after a child for a short time or for many years.

Affinity Fostering's Foster Carers have their own Social Worker, just like children in foster care do. The Foster Carer's Social Worker from Affinity Fostering gives them help, support, and advice, and they will talk to and work with the children's Social Worker during their time with Affinity's Foster Carers.

Affinity Fostering must work within the laws and regulations the Government sets. The most important thing we do is ensure that children are kept safe and well.

So, who works at Affinity Fostering?

Please see our Family Tree at the end of this document; we have included pictures so you can see who we are and how to contact us.


Can I complain if I don't like something?

Of course, everyone has a right to be listened to and say if something is wrong for them. Look at your Welcome Packs, they have all the details in there.

Do Foster Carers have to learn how to Foster?

Yes, they attend lots of training to help the children and young people in their care.


They like to work with children and want to help in any way they can.



All Foster Carers must have a 'Review' like children being fostered, so everyone knows how they are progressing.

Does Affinity Fostering have to take exams like we do in school?

Not really, but OFSTED inspectors come and look at everything we do regularly. It's like your teacher will look at your work and give you a mark. The inspector (there may be more than one) will write a big report that can be shared with everyone. Let your Social Worker or Foster Carer know if you want to read it. Our inspectors said we are Outstanding, this is like your teacher giving you 10 out of 10!



Participation!

What is Participation?

“Participation is when people are given the opportunity to express their views effectively and for those views to be listened to and taken into account. It is about being involved in and influencing decision making on matters that affect them”

It is vital for us at Affinity Fostering to listen to what you tell us; this helps us to develop. Young people’s work with us has even led to changes in our policies and practices.

Affinity Fostering must always improve its service.

To help improve our service, Affinity will write to you, your carers and your Social Worker and ask ‘how are we doing?’. The answers they get will then be used to help them make changes and do things better. So please fill out your questionnaire and give your feedback. You don’t have to wait to do this - we would love to hear from you anytime. This can be done in many ways - through your Social Worker, Foster Carer, Affinity Social Worker, or Affinity’s Children’s Engagement Team. Our family tree (below) has contact information for everyone who works for Affinity for you to use if you would like to.

Affinity also has our young person's council 'Voices', a great forum that works closely with Affinity and lets us know what is important to them, and to you! Affinity has also helped the Voices group with their campaigns!



THANK YOU



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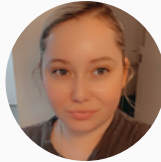
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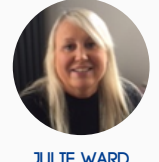
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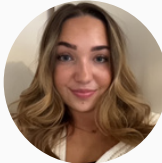
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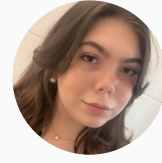
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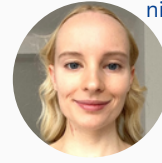
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