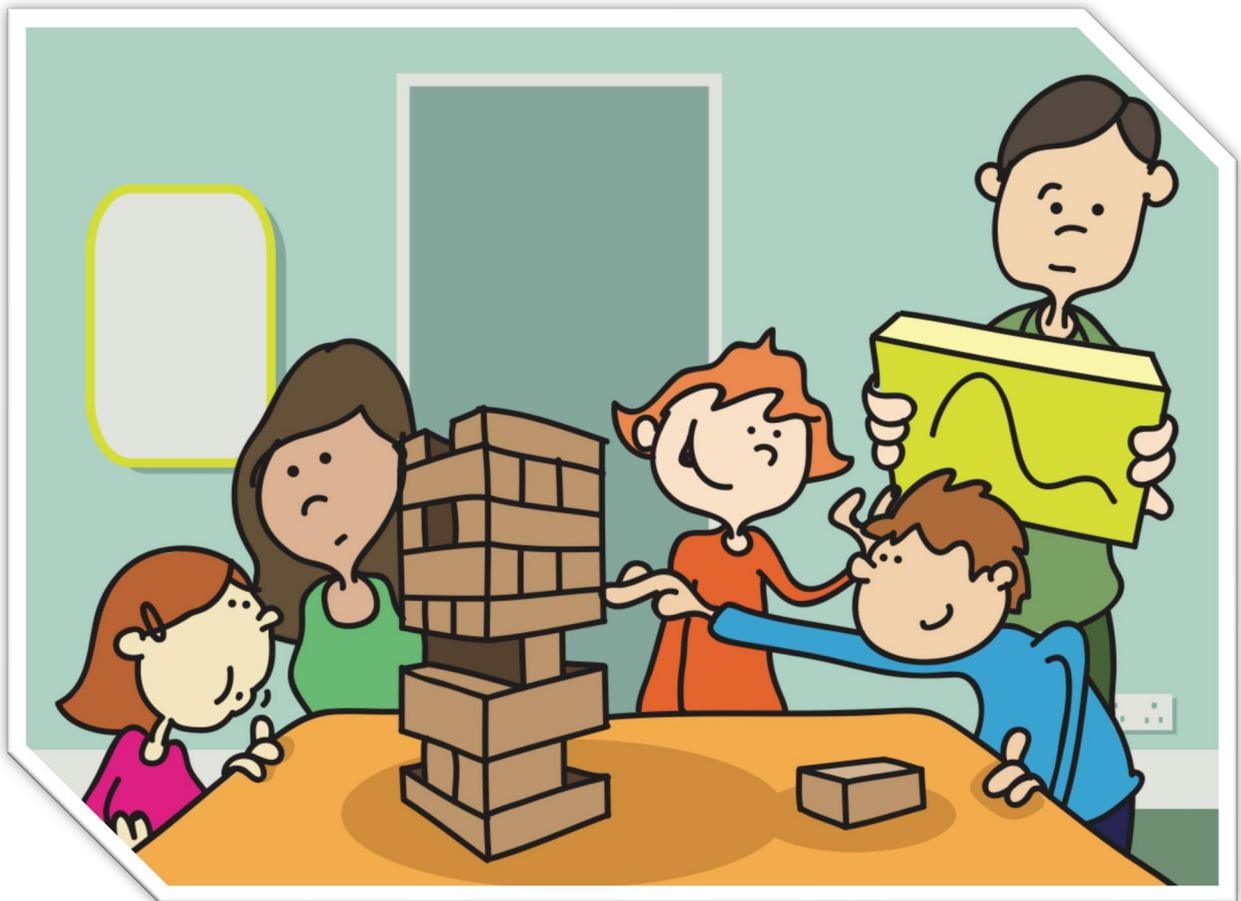


**North  
Lincolnshire  
Council**

[www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk)

# Young Person's Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021 - 2022



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### **The address of the Fostering Service is:**

North Lincolnshire Fostering Service  
Church Square House  
30 – 40 High Street  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL

**Telephone: 01724 297024**

If you would like some help going through this Statement of Purpose, then please ring us (or ask your carer to) on **01724 297024** and we will sort this out for you. Ask to speak to the Duty Fostering Social Worker.

The person who put this together is called **Jane Brennan**. **Jane** is a manager in Fostering and she makes sure all the Fostering Families are ok. She is always interested to hear about what you think and to answer any questions you might have. You can contact her on **01724 297024** or by email [Jane.Brennan@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Brennan@northlincs.gov.uk)

## For Starters

Every Fostering Service has to write a Statement of Purpose. This is so that everyone knows what the Fostering Service does and the rules that it has to follow.

Some of the rules that we have to follow are in these important papers:

- The Fostering Service Regulations 2011, amended July 2013 and April 2014
- The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services (2011)
- The children Act 1989
- Working Together to safeguard children 2018

You should have a chance to see this Statement of Purpose. We make sure it is on the Council's webpages [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk) and we also give it to every Foster Family.

Every year we update this so that you can see what we will be doing and what we want to achieve.

The people who check we are doing what we need to do are from **Ofsted** and their details are;

### **OFSTED**

**Piccadilly Street**

**Store Street**

**Manchester**

**M1 2WD**

**Telephone 0300 123 1231**

**Email; [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)**

In June 2017 the Fostering Services that we provide were inspected by Ofsted. Some of children living in foster care met with the Ofsted Inspector. The Ofsted Inspector listened to the feedback that they gave about the Fostering Service.

In September 2017 the Ofsted Report was published and North Lincolnshire's Fostering Services were judged as '**Outstanding**'.

We want the Fostering Service to continue to be outstanding and to do this we will make sure that we listen to your suggestions. We want you to tell us what is working well and if you think there is something we can be doing better. The different ways you can contact us are included in this Statement of Purpose.

### What is important to us?

- The children are the most important thing and should be happy, healthy and safe.
- Children should have an enjoyable childhood, living with great carers.
- Foster families should have the support they need to look after everyone in the home.
- Children enjoying lots opportunities to develop their talents and skills
- Children growing up in a loving environment
- Every child should have his or her wishes and feelings listened to
- Each child is unique and should have support they need to believe in themselves.
- Everyone should work well together to make sure children have what they need
- Children should be supported to stay in touch with people who are important to them
- Where it is right to do so, children should be supported to see and live with family



## Who is in the Fostering team?

The team is made up of social workers, support officers, business support and managers.

The **Managers** make sure that we are doing everything the Law and rules say we should. It is their job to make sure Foster carers and children have what they need and that the service runs well.



Paul Cowling is the service lead. He is also in charge of other teams such as adoption and youth offending.

Jane Brennan is a Service Manager. She makes sure that the managers have everything they need to support all the children and families. She makes sure that we enough foster carers and that the families feel supported.

Beth Swingler is a team manager who advertises for more foster families, works with businesses who might help with finding foster families and matches children to families.

Claire Gourlay is a team manager who supports the social workers who visit your foster family and make sure you and the family feel happy and safe.

The **Fostering social workers** will talk to and help Foster Carers to make sure everything is going well. They will come to your home and will attend your child in care review. Fostering social workers also visit families who are thinking of becoming Foster Families and they look in to everything to make sure they would be good Fostering Families.

You can always talk to the Fostering Social Worker about any worries you have.

The fostering social workers are: Maria, Kate, Jenny, Jenni, Sue, Kevin, Phoebe, Nicki, Ali, Lisa, Claire, Tracy, Catherine, Karen, Gillian, Rachael and Jill

We also have **Support Officers** who will come and spend some time with you or your family if anyone needs a break or someone to talk to. They are call Emma

and Jenny. Emma and Jenny also run some of the groups that take place with children.

Business support make sure all the paperwork is stored safely, meeting notes are written down and that the Foster Panel takes place.

### What do the Fostering team do?

- Visit everyone at home to make sure it's happy and safe
- Come to child in care reviews to make sure you and carer understand where you will be living
- Work with your social worker to sort out any issues
- Contact services that can help such as CAMHS and Banardos (they work with children who need emotional support)
- Sometimes you may need to talk to someone else, like a therapist. This can be the case when things feel very complicated and space and time is needed to work some things out. A therapist can sometimes help to do this. Or, it could be that a Social worker is the best person to help you do this. Either way, we will help you find someone you can talk to on a one to one
- Work with schools to make sure you can go to school and they understand what you might need living in foster care
- Help foster carers understand what you might be feeling about living in foster care
- We offer training to carers and children to help everyone understand each other, stay safe when out and when on the internet.
- We hold events for all foster families to get together
- Youth groups so children can meet up and have fun with other children in Foster Families
- Put in place safe care rules for everyone in the home
- Support you to keep in touch with the people that are important to you

### Some of the things we help with:

- We can give you a [Children's Guide to Fostering](#).
- We can help you make a [memory book](#) made of pictures and stories of your time in Foster care
- Help you understand [household rules](#) and safe care
  
- Invite you to the [children in care council](#). This is a group of children in care who meet up to help the services be the best they can be. There are different groups for children of different ages and they meet with managers of the council who want to hear what you think.
- Support you to attend the [children in care Choir](#). The Choir is a group of children who love to sing! They go to different places to perform.
- Invite you to [Take Part Thursday](#). This is a group in the school holidays where children meet on a Thursday and try a new activity
- Invite you to [Fostering Events](#) such as: The Christmas Party, Pantomime, Flamingoland and Fundays
- Make sure you know about other events taking place: [Corporate parenting week](#), the annual awards and Talent show and the Art show
  
- Run a [group for children of Foster carers](#) to help them make friends with other children who Foster.



## The Foster Panel



The [North Lincolnshire Foster Panel](#) is a big meeting where they make recommendations about Foster Families. The Foster Panel takes place on the third and fourth Monday of each month.

The Panel has four or more people at each meeting and these are called [Panel Members](#). Panel Members have lots of different jobs and backgrounds. There are: Local councillors, a social worker with fostering experience, a doctor, a former child in care, a foster carer from another area, a psychologist and an education worker.

All people who want to provide a foster family are checked out carefully by a fostering social worker. They write a report and this is what the Foster Panel read. The Foster panel recommend if people should become a foster family.

Foster families are also 'reviewed' every year which means looking at what they've done over the year, what things have been like, letting people know about all the good things and checking out anything that hasn't been so good. The Foster Panel will sometimes be asked to check the review and make a recommendation. If children have lived in a Foster Family and it is the plan for them to stay there then the Foster Panel may be asked to agree to this. This is called a 'long term match'.

Foster carers and sometimes children are invited to the panel. Panel members enjoy meeting the families.

## People to get in touch with

At times, foster carers and children in foster care may feel unhappy about the services they receive. You can always talk to your carer, social worker or fostering social worker and they will help you as much as possible



All children in foster care can call [the Children's Advocate](#). The advocate is [there to listen to you](#) and can help you let the people around you know how you feel.

### Children's Advocacy Service

Hewson House  
Station Road  
Brigg  
North Lincolnshire  
DN20 8XJ  
Telephone 01724 296639  
Mobile 07717586247



If you are really unhappy and think we haven't sorted it then you can also make a complaint to a [complaints officer](#) called Lesley Cooper.

### Lesley Cooper

Church Square House  
30-40 High Street  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL  
Telephone 01724 296426

## OFSTED

This is the inspecting body for fostering. They visit to make sure the Fostering service is doing what they should to help children and families. You can call or

email them to let them know about the service.

### Ofsted National Business Unit

Piccadilly Gate

Store Street

Manchester

M1 2WD

Telephone 0300 123 1231

Email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

### Children's Rights Director for England

The Children's Commissioner for England promotes and protects children's rights in England. The Commissioner does this by listening to what children and young people say about what matters to them and making sure adults in charge take their views and interests into account. Contact details are;

#### The Office of the Children's Rights Director

St Nicholas Building

St Nicholas Street

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 1NB

Free phone 0800 5280731

Website [www.rights4me.org.uk](http://www.rights4me.org.uk)

Email [theteam.rights4me@csci.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:theteam.rights4me@csci.gsi.gov.uk)

### Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Councillor Julie Reed

Church Square House

30-40 High Street

Scunthorpe

North Lincolnshire

DN15 6NL

Telephone 01724 297614

Mobile 077762056445

Email [Cllr.juliereed@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.juliereed@northlincs.gov.uk)

