

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

www.northlincs.gov.uk

Young Person's Statement of Purpose for Special Guardianship 2022 - 2023



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Special Guardianship support is overseen by the North Lincolnshire Adoption

The address of North Lincolnshire Adoption is:

Family Adoption Links
North Lincolnshire Adoption
Church Square House
30 – 40 High Street
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Telephone: [01724 297024](tel:01724297024)

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

The person who put this together is called **Karen Everatt** and she is in charge of the Adoption Team. 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 karen.everatt@northlincs.gov.uk

1. For Starters

This Statement of Purpose has been written so that you know what support we can give you.

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 and we also give it to every young person that we are working with.

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

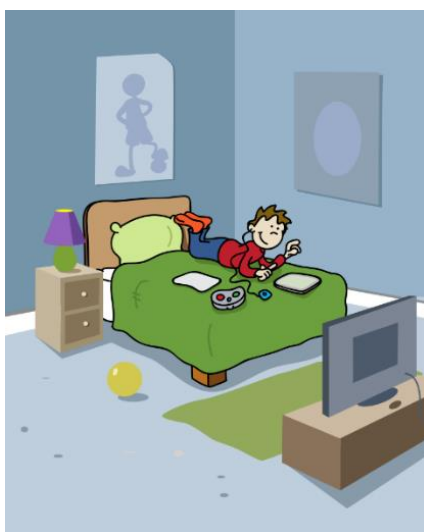
Manchester

M1 2WD

Telephone 0300 123 1231

Email; enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

We want to give you the best support we can 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.



2. About Special Guardianship

Special Guardians are adults who care for children and young people in their home. A **Special Guardian** is usually someone with a close relationship to you, such as a family member, former foster carer or family friend.

The Special Guardianship Order lasts until you are 18 years of age and so the Special Guardian remains your Guardian until then. Only a Court can make a Special Guardianship Order. The Family Court is where this decision is made.

Special Guardianship is a way of giving you a safe and secure family life while you are growing up. The Order is made when the Court has decided that you cannot live with your birth parents. There are many reasons why the Court may decide you cannot live with your parents.

**if you haven't got a copy already, ask for our Young Person's Guide to Special Guardianship as this explains the different reasons why a Court may decide that Special Guardianship is the right plan.*

Unlike adoption, a Special Guardianship Order will not remove parental responsibility from your birth parents. This means that the Special Guardian will have responsibility for the day-to-day decisions as well as all the important decisions about you, but will need to consult your birth parents at times where key decisions are being made such as changing your name, moving overseas or agreeing adoption.



3. How we can help

We will

- You are all different and have your own opinions so we will listen to you in how best to support you and your family.
- We will ask you what you think about our services. This helps us find out the best way we can help.
- We will ask you for any ideas about things we can do.
- What you say is always important to us.
- We will be respectful.
- We will find out about everyone's needs and make sure all are treated fairly and with respect.
- We will be available to help during any difficult times.
- We will give information about the support and services we provide. We will make sure that we do this by talking and also by writing things down.
- We will try and answer all your questions. Sometimes the answer may be difficult to hear and we will always be around to support you and to help you work it out.
- It's important that you are safe and that you are given every chance to succeed and this means having a goal for your future. We will do whatever we can to help with this.



Examples of Services we will provide for you;

- We will give you a copy of this Statement of Purpose.
- We can give you a guide to the support we offer.
- We have a Children and Young Person's Guide to Special Guardianship, and you will usually receive this before the Order is made. If you need another copy of this let us know and we will make sure you get a copy.
- We can help with collecting memories and in collecting information for your life story book.
- We can try and help sort out things to do with contact.
- 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 an Adoption 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.
- We will make sure you have the dates for any groups / activities that we run.
- We can arrange different training, for example, we can help schools understand a little more about what it is like to be living with special guardians. Or, you might want to learn about something in particular and if you let us know then we might be able to arrange it.



4. How to contact the Team

If you would like to know more about Special Guardianship or to share any suggestions you have then please contact;

Karen Everatt, Adoption Manager

01724 297024 or karen.everatt@northlincs.gov.uk

If you are unhappy about anything then you can also contact Karen who will work with you to come up with the best way to sort out what is making you unhappy

You can also contact the **Adoption Duty Worker on 01724 297024**

We have an Adoption Duty Worker Monday to Friday at the following times;

Monday – Thursday 1pm – 5pm

Friday 1pm – 4.30pm

As well as Karen...

In North Lincolnshire we have someone who can give advice about support. This person is called an Adoption Support Services Advisor and she is called Di Rees. She can also give advice about Special Guardianship Support. You can contact Di at di.rees@northlincs.gov.uk or write to her at the below address.

**The Adoption Support Services Advisor
North Lincolnshire Council
30 – 40 Church Square House
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL**

Or, you can speak to an Adoption Duty Worker on **01724 297024** and ask that they tell Di that you want to speak to her.

5. Other Useful Information:

Making a Complaint

If you are really unhappy with the services you get and you have tried to tell us but you don't think that it has been sorted then you can contact the Complaints Person and she is called Lesley Cooper. Contact details are;

Lesley Cooper
Contact and Relationship Manager
North Lincolnshire Council
Church Square House
30 – 40 High Street
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Telephone Number **01724 297069**

Email Lesley.Cooper@northlincs.gov.uk

If you remain unsatisfied with our response you may wish to contact the **Local Government Ombudsman on 0300 061 0614.**

The Children's Commissioner 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 Commissioner
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Tel: 020 7783 8330

Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk