NATIONWIDE FOSTERING

Statement of Purpose 2026/27

NATIONWIDE FOSTERING

Nationwide Fostering, First Floor, The Charter Building,
Charter Place, Uxbridge, UB8 1JG

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INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Purpose describes how Nationwide Fostering Limited operates as an independent fostering service in England. It explains the service's aims, organisational arrangements, services, approach to safeguarding and quality assurance, and the support provided to children, young people and foster carers.

The Statement of Purpose has been prepared with reference to the Care Standards Act 2000, the Children Act 1989 and its amendments, the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services.

AVAILABILITY AND REVIEW

A copy is made available to Ofsted, employees and people working for the service, foster carers and applicants, children and young people placed through the service, parents or guardians, commissioning local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. An accessible version or printed copy can be provided on request.

The document is reviewed at least annually and whenever there is a significant change to the service, its management, registration or the services it provides. Amar Dhull, the Responsible Individual, formally approves and signs off the Statement of Purpose. The current version is provided to Ofsted and published on Nationwide Fostering's website. Policies, procedures and written guidance are kept consistent with the Statement of Purpose.

CHILDREN'S GUIDE

Nationwide Fostering provides every child and young person with a Children's Guide when they are placed with the service. More than one version is available so that the information can be presented in a way suited to the child's age and understanding. The guide explains the fostering service, the child's rights and how to raise a concern or make a complaint.

OUR MISSION, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

To provide high quality and innovative fostering services for children and young people, where they can experience a safe, warm and caring family life which enhances and maximises their potential.

OUR AIMS:

We strive to have a strong and quality driven service, with a growing presence throughout the UK. The development of the organisation has been motivated by our commitment to ensuring that we provide transforming care in the lives of vulnerable children. Our aims are:

To develop a fostering service where partnership working, professionalism, respect, integrity, and fairness are central to all aspects of the operations and provisions.

To always apply a child-centred approach where the welfare of the child is at the centre of everyone's thinking and actions.

To ensure that we safeguard the welfare of every child and young person that we provide with a placement or who lives within the fostering families under our service.

To offer service users and Local Authority partner's safe, high quality, value for money fostering services with tangible, positive, measured outcomes for children.

Have a national structure and presence that enables us to maintain our high levels of local, regional, and individual safety and support.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure children and young people placed with us have a stable and consistent experience of a safe, warm, and caring family life, which enhances and maximises their potential.

- To demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvements, quality assurance and the highest quality provisions.

- To assist the Local Authorities in improving the wellbeing of children in every aspect of their lives.

- To make high quality matches between children and foster families where the skills and experience of the foster family provides the foundation for the improvement of the child's life.

- To recruit, train and approve foster carers from a broad cultural, religious and ethnic background so that they can be appropriately matched against the needs of the children and young people coming into care.

- To strongly support and promote social interests and hobbies of children and young people so that they take part in a range of activities and lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

- To provide a 24-hour service to foster carers and Local Authorities which is responsive, supportive and professional.

- To regularly consult with children in care so as to monitor their wishes and feelings and make improvements, amendments and changes within the service provision where appropriate.

- To provide a diverse training programme for foster carers which mirrors the training and development needs of the foster carers in relation to the children and young people.

- A focus on continuous improvement, quality assurance and high quality service provision. To continually strive for excellence in all we do.

- To deliver best value to all stakeholders.

STATUS AND CONSTITUTION

Nationwide Fostering Limited is a private limited company incorporated in England and Wales. Its Companies House registration number is 11826827.

The fostering service is registered with Ofsted as an Independent Fostering Service. Its Ofsted unique reference number is 2589848.

COMPANIES HOUSE

11826827

OFSTED UNIQUE REFERENCE

2589848

REGISTERED SERVICE ADDRESS

First Floor, The Charter Building, Charter Place, Uxbridge, UB8 1JG.

HEAD OFFICE

Nationwide Fostering's registered service address and central contact details are:

First Floor, The Charter Building,
Charter Place, Uxbridge, UB8 1JG

CONTACT

T: 0203 600 0750
E: enquiries@nationwidefostering.org.uk

KEY LEADERSHIP

Amar Dhull	Responsible Individual
Tim McArdle	Board Director - organisation-wide oversight
Suzanne Lewis	Interim Registered Manager - registration pending
Mohsin Zaidi	Director - Carer Recruitment
Monica Dhull	Director - Quality Assurance and Business Management

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Nationwide Fostering is committed to equality of opportunity and to creating an inclusive service for children, young people, foster carers, applicants, employees and partners. The service does not tolerate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or bullying.

Care planning, matching and support take account of each child's identity and individual needs, including ethnicity, culture, faith, language, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and family relationships. Foster carers are expected and supported to help children understand and value their identity and heritage.

The service monitors practice and outcomes, listens to feedback and takes proportionate action where barriers, inequity or discriminatory practice are identified.

NATIONWIDE FOSTERING ORGANISATION

Management & staffing 2026/27

Nationwide Fostering operates with a deliberately streamlined structure. Roles and reporting relationships are set out below.

ROLE HOLDER	ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY / REPORTING
Amar Dhull	Responsible Individual	Statutory oversight of the fostering service.
Tim McArdle	Board Director - organisation-wide oversight	Works under the Responsible Individual and oversees the organisation as a whole.
Suzanne Lewis	Interim Registered Manager - registration pending	Day-to-day management of the fostering service; directly supervises all social-work practitioners.
Mohsin Zaidi	Director - Carer Recruitment	Leads the recruitment of prospective foster carers.
Monica Dhull	Director - Quality Assurance and Business Management	Leads quality assurance and business-management activity.
Sufyanullah	Senior Practitioner	Social-work practitioner reporting directly to the Interim Registered Manager; the title does not carry line-management responsibility.
Umama Khursheed	Supervising Social Worker	Reports directly to the Interim Registered Manager.
Neha Dhull	Supervising Social Worker	Reports directly to the Interim Registered Manager.
Back-office Administration Team	Administration support	Jointly managed by Suzanne, Mohsin and Monica.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

MANAGEMENT & STAFFING

GOVERNANCE AND SUPERVISION

The Responsible Individual maintains oversight of the service. The Interim Registered Manager is responsible for day-to-day regulated practice and directly supervises Sufyan, Umama and Neha. Tim McArdle provides organisation-wide oversight. Suzanne, Mohsin and Monica jointly manage the back-office administration team.

WORKFORCE AND SAFER RECRUITMENT

Nationwide Fostering's social workers are professionally qualified and registered with Social Work England. The service also uses independent assessors where appropriate. All employees, independent workers and other persons engaged by the service are subject to the statutory checks and safer-recruitment requirements applicable to their roles, in accordance with the regulations.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY NATIONWIDE FOSTERING

Nationwide Fostering works with local authorities to provide family placements for children and young people whose needs can be safely met by approved foster carers. Every referral is considered individually and matched against carers' approval terms, skills, household circumstances, location and ability to meet the child's assessed needs.

PLACEMENT SERVICES

Emergency and short-notice placements, where sufficient information is available to make a safe decision.

Short-term placements, while plans for a child's future are assessed or progressed.

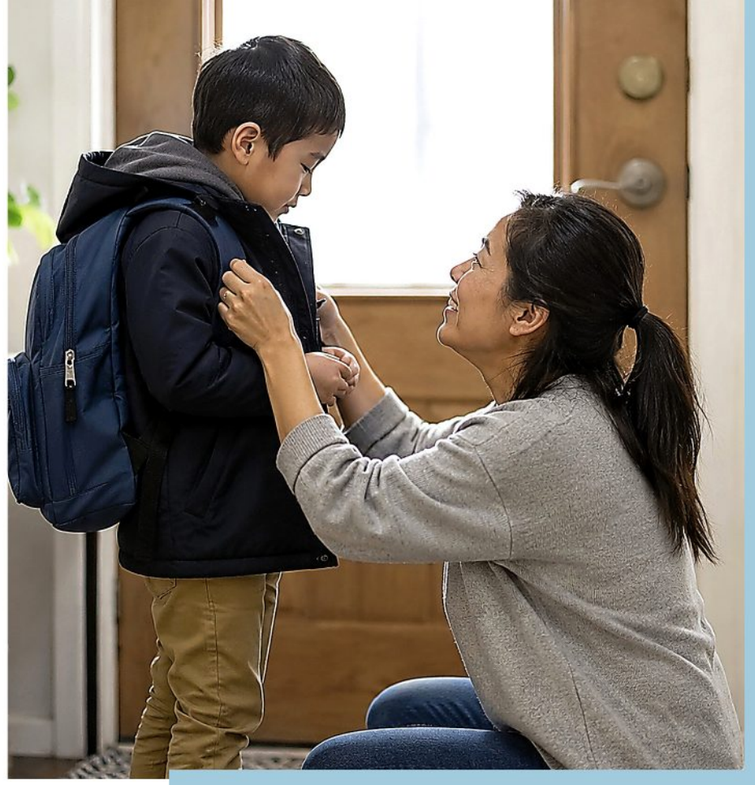
Long-term and permanent fostering placements, where this is consistent with the child's care plan.

Parent and child placements, where carers have the appropriate approval, skills and support.

Sibling placements, where it is safe and in the children's interests to live together.

Solo placements, where a child's needs require additional focus or household capacity.

Stay Over or planned short-break support.



EVERY REFERRAL IS CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY

Matched against carers' approval terms, skills, household circumstances, location and ability to meet the child's assessed needs.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FOSTER FAMILIES

Support is tailored to the needs of children and foster families and includes supervising-social-worker visits and telephone contact, participation in relevant professional meetings, foster-carer support groups, training and the other support arrangements described in the existing Nationwide service information.

All Nationwide Fostering foster carers are supported by an allocated supervising social worker. The supervising social workers will:

- Ensure the safety of every child through supervision, unannounced visits, training and the review process of foster carers.
- Ensure that any safeguarding concerns are raised/escalated immediately to the designated safeguarding officer in the organisation.
- Undertake monthly supervision and maintain frequent contact with the foster carer and children in placement through placement visits and telephone calls.
- Make unannounced visits to the foster home. Provide advice, guidance and out of hours support to foster carers on their care of children in placement.
- Coordinate other support services as appropriate e.g., support work, respite care and therapeutic intervention.
- Liaise with other professional service providers who may be involved and contribute to formal meetings about care plans for children and foster carer reviews.
- Identify and help respond to foster carers' training needs.
- Keep careful records of the progress of placements and achievements of children.
- Help foster carers achieve the Training Support and Development Standards during the formative stage of their fostering career.

The supervising social workers have a wide range of experience and many have specific expertise, for example in undertaking life story work, leaving care preparation and undertaking various assessment related work.

Support Service for Children and Young People

The Support Service for Children and Young People helps to support and sustain placements by identifying and meeting the needs of individual children/young people and their foster carer.

Supervising Social Workers and Support Workers make a significant contribution to our proactive participation strategy for children and young people by organising and supervising activities, as well as consultation, feedback and events. In addition, they provide the following services:

- Out of hours duty support in response to crisis and emergencies.
- Transport for a child/ young person to attend school, contact visits or activities.
- Supervision of contact between a child/young person and his/her birth family.
- Excursions, trips and social activities for foster children/young people.
- Independent living preparation and training
- Social activities for the sons and daughters of foster carers.
- Children and Young People Council (CYPC): A number of children and young people, from each region, make up the CYPC, who meets (virtually, due to the distance between the offices), approximately 3 times per year.

Therapy services

Nationwide Fostering provides individual therapy for the young person if requested or required. Any individual therapy provided will usually be arranged in consultation with the foster carers & concerned local authority.

SOCIAL WORK & SUPPORT SERVICES

NATIONWIDE FOSTERING

RECRUITMENT, ASSESSMENT & APPROVAL OF FOSTER CARERS

ENQUIRIES AND INITIAL SCREENING

The service responds to enquiries through telephone, online and email channels. Initial screening explores motivation, household circumstances, experience, availability and the broad requirements of fostering. Where appropriate, an initial visit is arranged to discuss the role and determine whether an application should be invited.

Nationwide Fostering employs various tools and channels to recruit foster carers. Once an individual or a family contacts Nationwide Fostering, the recruitment officer ensures that their basic details are obtained and guides them through the initial screening. The main factors which determine whether an applicant proceeds to the next stage include their motivation to foster, skills, experience, resilience and approach. Decisions also take account of DBS and medical information, references, home location and the availability of at least one spare bedroom. The recruitment and assessment process takes 4-6 months on average, and every effort is made to ensure there is no avoidable delay.

CENTRALISED RECRUITMENT TEAM

Nationwide Fostering operates a central recruitment team that communicates with fostering enquiries through phone, live chat and email. The experienced team provides guidance and direction to potential applicants and determines whether the enquirer is suitable for the next stage, either receiving information by email or an Initial Visit.

APPLICATION FORM

Potential foster carers complete an online application form, giving detailed information about themselves and their family and consenting to the checks and enquiries needed to establish their suitability to foster. These include:

- Verification of identity and personal history.
- Disclosure and Barring Service checks on all adult members of the household.
- Enquiries to Children's Social Care Authorities and their Child Protection Registers.
- Medical examinations completed by the applicant's GP, with reports available to the Agency Medical Adviser for comment.
- Enquiries to other agencies where required.
- Three personal referees who provide written references and are interviewed as part of the assessment. Confidential references are handled in accordance with consent requirements.

INITIAL VISIT

Nationwide Fostering decides whether to visit a family following the initial screening discussion. The Initial Visit is undertaken by a fostering-service manager or a qualified social worker. It gives enquirers an opportunity to learn more about Nationwide Fostering and the requirements of foster carers. Enquirers are told about health checks, DBS checks, references and training. Following the visit, the service decides whether to invite a formal application; anyone not progressing is informed of the reasons.

ASSESSMENT

Assessments are undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced social workers, including independent assessors engaged by Nationwide Fostering where appropriate. The process is evidence-based and all statutory checks are completed in accordance with the regulations. Assessment includes exploration of applicants' histories, relationships, experience and capacity to meet the needs of children in care. Applicants are expected to participate fully and openly.

Nationwide Fostering uses the Coram BAAF Form F template and process (Stage 1 and Stage 2). The first assessment meeting covers planning and timetabling. The assessor normally visits applicants at home on 6-9 occasions, explains how information and evidence are gathered, and ensures applicants understand checks through the DBS, local authority and GP. Applicants attend Skills to Foster training before the assessment is completed.

ASSESSMENT (CONTINUED)

Applicants receive preparation training and are kept informed about the assessment process. A written assessment report is quality assured before presentation to the fostering panel. Applicants are informed of the recommendation and the agency decision, including the reasons and the routes available if they disagree.

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE AND PREPARATION

During the assessment process, applicants are asked to compile a portfolio of written material giving examples of relevant experience, skills and competence. Nationwide Fostering's assessing social worker undertakes the assessment in the applicants' own home, at the training venue during the Skills to Foster preparation course and in other relevant settings, such as the workplace where appropriate. A variety of techniques is used to gather evidence or information regarding the applicant's suitability to foster.

All prospective foster carers must attend Skills to Foster training during their assessment. This training provides applicants with information about the responsibilities of being a foster carer and working with Nationwide Fostering.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PANEL PREPARATION

Nationwide Fostering's Quality Assurance Team has oversight of the pre-panel process to support regulatory compliance and quality control of the assessment. The team reads the report and identifies any areas which need further attention or completion by the assessor. Once the report is complete, a panel date is identified and allocated.

Prospective carers read and sign the report before it is submitted to the fostering panel. Any amendments or changes they wish to make are discussed with the assessor and noted in the report. The panel administrator circulates the Form F to panel members through the secure online database and invites the assessor and applicants to the panel meeting.

The panel then makes a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). Applicants are not required to meet the ADM. Applicants are informed verbally and/or in writing about the agency decision within statutory timescales. Information obtained about prospective foster carers is held on file and relevant sections are available to view on request. If applicants are not approved, they are informed in writing, receive the qualifying determination and are told the options available to challenge the recommendation.

INDUCTION

Once approved by an ADM, foster carers are allocated a named Supervising Social Worker (SSW). Their induction includes receiving the foster carer handbook, complaints leaflet, foster carer diary and an ID card. All foster carers receive a Welcome Visit from their SSW, who explains the next stage of the referral and matching process, asks the carers to sign the foster carer agreement, discusses future training and answers immediate questions about the fostering task.

FOSTERING PANEL AND DECISION-MAKING

Nationwide Fostering maintains arrangements for a fostering panel constituted and operated in accordance with the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011. Panel members are drawn from a central list and collectively provide an appropriate range of professional and personal experience.

Nationwide Fostering has its own fostering panel. The panel considers foster-carer assessments, reviews and other matters referred to it. It provides independent scrutiny and makes recommendations to the agency. Suzanne Lewis is the Panel Adviser. Final decisions are made by the Agency Decision Maker, Urs Bielmann, after consideration of the panel recommendation and all relevant information.

The panel contributes to quality assurance, professional accountability and feedback. Matters referred to it may include applications and assessments, annual reviews, re-approvals, changes to terms of approval and termination of approval. The panel conducts business only when the required quorum is present: the Chair or Vice-Chair, one social worker with at least three years' relevant post-qualifying experience and at least three other members from the central list. The Vice-Chair acts as Chair when the Chair is absent or the office is vacant.

Panel Chair:
Vice-Chair:

Quality Assurance Team
A specialist team, lead by the Head of QA who is an experienced social work practitioner and manager, reviews all aspects of social work and creates a well-documented audit trail, which helps monitor and improve the quality of social work services across all regions. The Head of QA is supported by the Business Development manager as well as administrators.

Regular meetings and exchange with managers and social workers ensure that areas for improvements are processed efficiently and effectively.

SUPERVISION, REVIEWS, TRAINING & SUPPORT

SUPERVISION AND SAFEGUARDING

Every approved foster carer is allocated a supervising social worker. Supervising social workers normally visit monthly, with additional contact where circumstances require it. Supervision supports safe care, reflective practice, compliance with the foster-care agreement, progress against development objectives and effective communication with the child's placing authority.

Suzanne Lewis, Interim Registered Manager, is Nationwide Fostering's Safeguarding Lead. Safeguarding concerns and significant events are responded to through the service's policies and procedures and in partnership with placing authorities, local authority designated officers, Ofsted and other agencies as appropriate.

ALLEGATIONS

Allegations concerning foster carers or other persons connected with the service are managed under Nationwide Fostering's separate allegations and safeguarding procedures. The service works with the child's placing authority, the relevant local authority designated officer, Ofsted and other agencies as required. Children, foster carers and household members are kept appropriately informed and supported during the process, subject to safeguarding and confidentiality requirements.

CHILDREN'S VIEWS AND PARTICIPATION

Children and young people are consulted in a variety of ways. Their wishes and feelings are gathered formally and through discussions during visits across the year. Feedback is considered as part of placement support, reviews and the continuing development of the service.

REVIEWS

Foster carers receive an annual review and additional reviews where required, including following significant changes, serious concerns, allegations or recommendations about terms of approval. Reviews consider the views of foster carers, children in placement, household members, the supervising social worker and placing authorities where available.

REVIEW PRACTICE AND DECISION-MAKING

A detailed review report is prepared by the supervising social worker. The review process considers core competencies and ongoing training and development needs. Additional reviews may also be convened following a serious complaint or incident, a proposed change to terms of approval, or an early-review request from the fostering panel or Agency Decision Maker.

Where a review is referred to panel, the panel's recommendation and relevant papers are considered by the Agency Decision Maker and the foster carer is informed of the decision in writing.

LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT & PRACTICAL SUPPORT

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Foster carers complete preparation training during assessment and receive an ongoing learning and development programme after approval. Training is informed by regulatory requirements, the Training, Support and Development Standards, individual development plans, children's needs, practice learning and service priorities.

DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

Learning after approval builds on the preparation training described in the Recruitment, Assessment & Approval section, including Skills to Foster. Foster carers are supported to complete the applicable Training, Support and Development Standards during their first 12 months of fostering. Online learning supplements face-to-face training and gives carers flexible access to additional learning. Reflective learning logs may be used to evidence learning and are reviewed and signed off by a qualified social worker.

EXAMPLES OF LEARNING TOPICS

- Safer Caring
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- First Aid
- Health and safety
- Attachment Theory
- Welcoming children and helping them prepare to leave
- Parent and Child Foster Placements
- Working together professionally
- Communicating and recording
- Working with sexually abused children

The programme is reviewed through supervision, annual review and individual development planning.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Nationwide Fostering maintains foster-carer policies, procedures and practice guidance in accordance with the regulations. The guidance covers safeguarding, behaviour management, health and safety, care planning, training, meeting children's needs, education, complaints and grievances, and record keeping.

PRACTICAL AND OUT-OF-HOURS SUPPORT

Foster carers have access to advice and support outside normal office hours. The service also provides planned supervision, visits, telephone contact, support groups, family events and support for foster carers' birth children. Financial allowances and any additional agreed payments are explained transparently and administered in accordance with the foster-carer agreement and placement arrangements.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Allocated supervising social workers support carers between formal supervision sessions, including accompanying them to relevant meetings and maintaining regular telephone contact. Carers can access staff support 24/7 in emergencies.

Where appropriate, Nationwide Fostering can arrange specialist counselling or therapeutic support for a foster family. Foster carers also have access to legal and education advice, and the service provides information through foster-carer guidance and newsletters.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, COMPLAINTS AND INSPECTION

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Nationwide Fostering monitors the quality of its service through its existing management arrangements and by considering feedback, complaints, compliments and other information already gathered through service delivery. Monica is the Director responsible for Quality Assurance and Business Management.

This section will not claim additional audit, outcome-monitoring or improvement systems unless Nationwide confirms that they are currently in operation.

COMPLAINTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

Children and young people, foster carers, applicants, family members, employees, placing authorities and other people with a legitimate interest may raise a concern, make a representation or submit a complaint. Information is provided in an accessible form.

Complaints may be made verbally or in writing. They are recorded, acknowledged, investigated and responded to in accordance with the service's separate complaints policy and procedure. Complaints may be sent to **enquiries@nationwidefostering.org.uk**.

Named Complaints Lead: Suzanne Lewis

EXTERNAL INSPECTION

The service is inspected by Ofsted. Published inspection information is available through the Ofsted website using **URN 2589848**.

CONTACT & REGULATORY INFORMATION

HEAD OFFICE

SERVICE
Nationwide Fostering

ADDRESS
First Floor
The Charter Building
Charter Place
Uxbridge
UB8 1JG

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0203 600 0750

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WEBSITE
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COMPLAINTS EMAIL
enquiries@nationwidefostering.org.uk

REGULATORY INFORMATION

COMPANIES HOUSE NUMBER
11826827

OFSTED URN
2589848

LEADERSHIP & DECISION-MAKING

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL
Amar Dhull

INTERIM REGISTERED MANAGER
Suzanne Lewis
registration pending

ORGANISATION-WIDE OVERSIGHT
Tim McArdle, Board Director

PANEL ADVISER
Suzanne Lewis

AGENCY DECISION MAKER
Urs Bielmann

NATIONWIDE FOSTERING