



TIME OUT
fostering

valuing individual needs

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

2007

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Time Out Fostering Information

Address

Time Out Fostering Ltd.
The Ropetackle Centre,
Little High Street,
Shoreham by Sea,
West Sussex BN43 5EG
Between 9am-5pm call the main landline number: **01273 467530**
e.mail: office@timeoutfostering.co.uk

Emergency/support Call Service

For support or emergencies at other times please call **07914 899895**.

Fosterline 9.00am –5.00pm Monday – Friday 0800 040 7675

Directors

Joan Brookes , Jeremy Cross and Judy Packham

Registered Manager

Alison Young

MISSION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

'LEADING THE WAY IN SUPPORT CARE'

Time Out Fostering's philosophy is based upon passionate ideals about alternative ways of working with long term families (birth, kinship or adoptive) who risk separation due to their existing behaviour and skills. Time Out Fostering is offering support care alongside traditional fostering. Support care is an innovative service offering early intervention and aimed at preventing children and young people needing full time care. Support care offers respite foster care with the same carers plus a supportive relationship between specially trained foster carers (support carers), long term parents and their children. The placements offer a variety of options, from occasional day care to regular weekends/holidays, depending on what is most useful to the families. It is not open-ended and will be re-assessed on a six week basis. It will be focussed on solving specific problems and where possible end the involvement of social services. The support carer and supervising social worker can offer a diversity of work depending on the needs of the family. The support carer role can be one of mentor, supervisor, monitor, counsellor and educator. This work can vary from regular telephone support about parenting issues, to practical skills, such as, enabling a parent to cook basic appropriate food for their children. Long-term families respond positively to this relationship because the support carer works non-judgementally and in a less powerful role than that of a Social Worker. Support carers are therefore less likely to be perceived as threatening, they also have an understanding of their children and the issues that arise. A result of this work can be that long term families feel heard and understood by the support carer. The aim of this is to improve the long-term outlook for keeping the family together.

Time Out Fostering support care placements are organised, time limited and agreed by Time Out Fostering staff, the support carer, the parent, the child (where applicable) and the referrer (Social worker, health visitor etc.) The service offered aims to be adaptable, local and tailor made for the individual needs of the child/ young person and their permanent families. Support care allows the long-term families to remain as the central carers in the life of the child and responsible for their health and educational needs, with support where it is needed.

Time Out Fostering recognises that children appear to benefit from living with their birth families wherever possible, therefore when support care is deemed appropriate it can cut down on social work intervention and periods of time spent in care or foster homes. Support care is likely to prove cost effective compared to the expense of keeping a child in the care system indefinitely. There are also the emotional and educational costs of long term care.

Time Out Fostering has provided separate policies, procedures and guidance (where necessary) which are implemented throughout our practice for the support care component of our work. All our policies and procedures meet or exceed the legal requirements and the National Standards as well as addressing all the recommendations in the government Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Time Out Fostering aims to:

- provide a high quality, flexible and professional service
- offer good value for money.
- work with families and children where there is a likelihood of family breakdown if support care and respite fostering are not available.
- conduct advertising and recruitment campaigns that will encourage a diverse range of potential carer(s).
- organise a supportive care package that is designed to strengthen the long-term outlook for child and her/his family.
- have regard to the needs of excluded young people working towards inclusion, using strong links to Springboard Education where appropriate.
- specialise in support care. This means that services can be specifically structured to provide short-term foster care and support the long-term carer(s) of the children placed.
- Improve the mental health of children, young people by offering high quality carers and therapeutic intervention.
- promote good mental health in families.
- offer a sensitive matching service to meet the needs of the individual child
- provide an ongoing training programme enabling foster carer(s) to develop the skills required to cater for the needs of the children placed.
- ensure an integrated service with children, young people, their families and friends, carers, Social Workers, health care workers and local authorities.
- offer a service that respects and responds to the needs of a diverse range of children and families including racial, religious, cultural and language issues.
- provide placements that acknowledge the importance of disability, gender, special needs and sexuality.
- promote social inclusion by preventing family breakdown and giving children positive role models and experiences through support care.
- Promote the following for children and young people;
 - Be healthy
 - Stay Safe

- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

Time Out Fostering is governed under English law and conforms to relevant legislation.

STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES

The organisation is conducted on a not for profit basis ensuring that there is financial support to fulfil the needs of children, young people, parents, carers and staff.

Time Out Fostering;

- values and respects the rights and needs of each individual concerned in any way with the organisation.
- makes every effort to enable the child or young person in the foster/support home to reach their maximum potential within a nurturing and caring environment.
- works alongside permanent families with respect and with a non-judgmental approach.
- will ensure that each child's well being is promoted in all areas including personal development, emotional development, health and educational development.
- gives due consideration to the wishes and feelings of children and young people and their families.
- makes all efforts to safeguard the welfare of children and young people through thorough attention to the Health & Safety Policy and Procedures, Child Protection Policy and Procedures, training for staff and carers, and a commitment to constant vigilance in monitoring standards of care.
- recognises the complex demands of family life and therefore recognises the need to offer a variety of placements including and specialising in support care.
- believes that children tend to do better if they can remain with their families, therefore Time Out Fostering will work with families through support care to enable this outcome.
- intends to limit the size of each Centre in order to provide a high quality service in a personal manner where information and knowledge are shared for the benefit of the individual.
- allocates case responsibility to social workers in a way that reflects these values.
- ensures that supervising social workers allocate time to listen and discuss progress with carers on an individual basis at least every four weeks when a child is in place,

in an appropriate environment, record and follow up concerns and wishes and feed back responses within two weeks.

- young people and children are given access to independent agencies and advocacy services.
- To promote sponsorship through 'Children in Need' and other positive local causes for foster carers and children and young people placed with Time Out Fostering.

Insurance Cover

Time Out Fostering is insured by Walter Wright, insurance brokers and has Employers liability cover with NIG Insurance Company, Public Liability cover with NIG Insurance Company, Professional Indemnity cover from Marketform Limited at Lloyds and All Risks from AXA insurance.

A full copy of our Statement of Purpose is available on our website or from your Supervising Social Worker

General Information about this Handbook

Time Out Fostering hopes that this handbook is a useful reference guide for general information about fostering. It is updated and expanded on a rolling basis. It is advisable that all carers read this handbook before a child is placed. There will be areas which carers need more information about. Please ask your supervising social worker if there are any concerns or questions and they will respond. Some Time Out Fostering policies are contained in this book, others are available on request.

When the handbook refers to carers or foster carers it means approved foster carers and support carers. When the handbook refers to children or young people it means both.

Time Out Fostering would like to welcome all carers and offer our full support to ensure a fulfilling experience for carers and children.



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SECTION TWO

LEGAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

2006

In Care – Children who are on Interim Care Orders or Care Orders. The Local Authority and parents share parental responsibility. They are expected to work in partnership in agreeing and implementing the child’s care plan.

Looked After – A child who has been accommodated continuously for over 24 hours or if are under:

- Police Protection Orders
- Care Orders
- Emergency Protection Interim Care Orders
- Remand to Local Authority care
- Detention under Section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1986 (Children Act 1989 Section 22)

Accommodated – Children or young people who are accommodated by the Local Authority in agreement with the person who has parental responsibility. Parental powers are not transferred to Local Authority.

Young people who are 16 or above can request to be accommodated without the consent of their parents. They can also leave accommodation when they want.

Regulation 11 Placements –this lets a friend or relative to be approved as foster carers for up to 6 weeks in an emergency.

Child Abuse - An abused child is of either gender, less than 18 years of age, who has suffered from, or is believed to be at significant risk of physical injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse.

The abuser can be a child or adult of either gender. Abuse can also be failure to provide adequate care. A child may feel psychologically attached to their abuser and may therefore be reluctant to disclose abuse.