Family and Friends Care Policy

Our Approach to Supporting and Promoting the Needs of Children and Young People Living With Family and Friends Carers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Purpose and scope of the policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Statement of values, principles and objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Private and Informal arrangements for Children in Need:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Early identification and intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Assessing informal arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Supporting Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Financial Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Private Fostering arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Public arrangements for Children who are Looked After</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Family and Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Permanence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Information and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Enquiries, feedback and complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Glossary of terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Useful Contacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction

There are times when some parents are unable to look after their children for a variety of reasons, whether it is as result of crisis, resolved quickly, or for a much longer time. In most cases parents are able to make informal arrangements with relatives or close friends to care for their children. These arrangements are entirely reasonable and can afford less disruption to their children’s lives, than being cared for by strangers. Children can be cared for in a variety of different arrangements:

- In informal arrangements with a close relative.
- In informal arrangements with friends or other family members which last for a period of less than 28 days
- In a private fostering arrangement.
- As a looked after child placed with family or friends approved as foster carers.
- In a placement under a Child Arrangements Order or special guardianship order.
- In arrangements which may lead to an adoption order.

Oldham Council has published this policy in collaboration with its local partners to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of families and friends in caring for children, the type of services available and where to find out more about these services are clear and readily available.

Research has identified that family and friends carers can enhance the emotional and behavioural development of children, and children are generally reported to feel more secure, happy and integrated into the family compared to children placed within “stranger placements “. There is also research evidence that highlights greater placement stability and that these placements enable greater continuity and contact.

There is also research that these carers are usually older, financially disadvantaged with more health problems than the general or non related carers. (Family and Friends care: statutory guidance for local authorities)

In implementing this policy, Oldham aims to narrow the gap in outcomes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds placed in family and friends care and to support their carers with effective interagency support.

This policy is in line with the requirements of the Government’s Statutory Guidance to local authorities with responsibility for children services published by the Department of Education in 2011 setting out requirements for the provision of local policies to support and promote the needs of children living with family and friends carers.

The policy also links with Oldham’s ‘Early Help’ approach whereby we want to provide support to families and communities to respond to problems before they get worse.
Oldham’s Early Help Strategy sets out principles to harness low level support for families, children and young people. It also promotes individual, family and community resilience for everyone to ‘do their bit’.

The council recognises that many of the children and those who apply to become family and friends carers will come from diverse ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, and/or may have particular disabilities, and that these factors must be taken into consideration when establishing the best arrangements for children.

Like all public policies it is subject to change over time and therefore will be reviewed and revised by the Council periodically to ensure that it remains up-to-date.

2. Purpose and Scope of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and information on how Oldham Council will support with its partners and local services, children and young people living with their relatives, or friends of the family (also known as connected people in the revised care planning regulations). These arrangements can be made informally by parents, or through the Council in the case of children who are ‘looked after.’

Oldham Council will only become involved with such arrangements if there are welfare or protection issues with which the family needs help or intervention; or if the arrangements fall within the legal definition of private fostering, or if the child becomes ‘looked after’ by the Council.

This policy is in two parts,

1. Informal or private arrangements for children where their parents or person with parental responsibility for them has placed their child or young person with relatives and friends when these are for children designated as ‘in need.’

2. Public arrangements for children who are ‘looked after,’ that is the placement of children who are looked after by the Council, but are placed with their family, or relatives and friends.

Management Accountability

The senior manager in the Council with responsibility for family and friends care policy (including this policy) is Kim Scragg, Assistant Executive Director, Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Young People

3. Statement of Values, Principles and Objectives

The child’s welfare is paramount and the needs of the child must be at the forefront of all decision making.

Oldham Council recognises that for the vast majority of children private /informal arrangements work well to meet the needs of the child, and that with the provision of support at the earliest opportunity, there should be no requirement for intervention by the Council.
Children should be enabled to live within their families unless this is not consistent with their welfare. For most children, the best prospect for their emotional, physical, social, cultural, language and legal needs to be met will be to remain with, or return to live, with their birth parent/s. Many children who cannot live with a parent (or another person with parental responsibility) live with a relative or friend.

The majority of family / friend carer living arrangements do not need the support of the local authority. The majority are established independently between the child’s parent(s) and the family / friend carer. The local authority should not become involved with these arrangements unless it is deemed necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

When the local authority does become involved in the arrangements for a child living with, or going to live with, a family / friend – this should be based on a thorough assessment of the child and the family / friend carer. Children’s Services will work in partnership with children and their families in planning and decision making about their future care.

It is essential for the legal basis under which the child is living is clearly stated, confirmed in writing and understood by all parties.

This policy reflects the ‘No Order’ principle of the Children Act 1989, 'the aim …of the Children Act 1989…is to ensure that an Order is granted only where it will positively improve the child's welfare', (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Vol. 1).

Where it is assessed that a child cannot remain with, or, return to their birth parents, then care by Family & Friends carers or Family & Friends Foster Carers will be the placement of first choice to meet these needs, provided this is consistent with the child’s welfare.

Every child has the right to have the opportunity to develop secure attachments to carers who are capable of providing safe and effective and loving care for the duration of his/her childhood, so that child can thrive and develop.

Under these circumstances, the carers should be advised and supported to obtain an appropriate legal order giving them legal responsibility for the child through a Child Arrangements Order, Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order.

Support should be based on the needs of the child rather than merely their legal status and should seek to ensure that family and friends carers (whether or not they are approved foster carers) are provided with support to ensure that children do not become, voluntarily accommodated by the local authority under section 20(1) of the Children Act

4. Private and Informal Arrangements for Children in Need

Definition

The Government’s Statutory Guidance defines private or informal family or friends care arrangements as arrangements made by birth parents for the full time care, nurture and protection of their children, living apart from them with their family or friends. In most cases responsibility will remain with the birth parents,
although the day to day tasks and duties of care will devolve to the family members or friends.

In some instances these arrangements fall within the definition of private fostering and Oldham Council is required to become involved by the regulations; or it may be the case that the Council needs to become involved to promote the welfare or safeguard the child and prevent them from becoming ‘looked after’.

Children cared for under private/formal arrangements are not ‘looked after’ by the Council and may be made as follows:

- **Children placed with close relatives** (Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity) by parents at their own initiative.
- Children placed with close relatives by parents with the arrangements facilitated by and with the support of the Council, for example as an agreed safeguarding measure.
- Young people aged over 16 years who are living voluntarily with a relative – some exceptional circumstances apply to this.
- Children and young people placed with friends or non-close relatives by parents for a period less than 28 days.
- Children and young people placed with friends or non-close relatives for over 28 days become privately fostered under Private Fostering regulations.

If children and young people are being privately fostered by friends or non close relatives, the birth parent or the private foster carer has a duty to notify Oldham Council, Children Social Care of their intention by contacting the Children’s Assessment Team (CAT) 0161 770 3790.

**4.1. Early identification and intervention of private/informal arrangements**

The majority of these private arrangements work well and meet the needs of children and young people with the support of universal agencies such as health and education services. It is important however that any difficulties are responded to early.

Children may have particular short or long term needs pre-existing the arrangements, or as a consequence of the circumstances that prompted them. They may react to their new living situation for a variety of reasons adversely.

Services should not be withheld because a child is not living with its birth parents and is in a private fostering or informal arrangement. Support needs to be available when necessary and targeted to the child’s needs. The Family Rights Group 2009 found that the help that family and friends carers reported they wanted included financial and practical support, information and advice, opportunities to meet with other carers, access to universal and targeted services and help to the child.

It is important to identify those children and their carers who may need help and support as soon as possible in order to ensure that their care is safeguarded and maintained. Therefore, partner agencies, such as children’s centres, health and
education services have a key role to play in identifying and supporting children who are living with family or friends carers.

Each case will bring different challenges, but agencies must be sensitive to children's needs in these circumstances. Early intervention underpinned by the Common Assessment Framework and Think Family will help support families and prevent difficulties escalating to the point where specialist services are required.

4.2. Assessing informal arrangements

It is important for birth parents and informal carers to understand that Oldham Council will only assess the needs of children living informally with family or friends carers when it is necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child, or where the Council is obliged to meet the requirements of private fostering regulations. This assessment will be undertaken by the social work teams.

The Statutory Guidance for Family and Friends Care makes clear that the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families provides a suitable model for local councils to satisfy themselves that the informal arrangements will meet the child's needs and whether any and, if so, what additional support from the Council directly, or through other services, may be necessary to ensure that the arrangements can properly meet the child's assessed needs.

In such cases where social work teams undertakes an assessment with relevant partners using the Assessment Framework, it will advise the parents, (or those with legal parental responsibility), it's likely timescales and possible outcomes, and provide information about other possible help and support that might be suitable to their circumstances and situation.

It is equally important that if and when the social work teams become involved in an assessment of the child's needs within the informal arrangements that everyone involved is clear from the outset of the child's legal status and the responsibility of the birth parents.

Birth parents maintain legal parental responsibility for their child when they make informal arrangements with family or friends to provide the day-to-day care, which in effect they delegate to the carers.

This remains the case whether the Council becomes involved in an assessment of the child's needs. The Council will seek to maintain arrangements within the family, or where appropriate to the child's needs facilitate a return to full parental care, always in the best interests of the child.

The Council will make every effort to support the arrangements where it is in the child's best interests within the resources available to it.

The Statutory Guidance for Family and Friends Carers makes it clear that a child should not become looked after by a council, whether by agreement with those holding parental responsibility, or through application to the Court for an order for the sole purpose of enabling financial, practical or any other assistance or support.
Oldham Council will offer services to family or friends carers when a child being cared for is deemed a **child in need**, whether by means of information about financial and benefit entitlements, practical help and assistance, counselling and parenting advice, and where appropriate and in line with the Councils eligibility criteria, financial help under the provisions of the Children Act 1989, Section 17.

When the Council decides that a child is in need and requires support to remain with family or friends carers then the child will be the subject of a **Child in Need plan**, or a **Protection plan**, depending on the situation prevailing.

The child in need plan will agree practical and other support, including financial support to be provided to the child, under the provisions of Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to the child’s carer. It will also identify the role and responsibility of the Child’s parents.

When such avenues have been exhausted, or it appears to the Council that maintaining any such informal arrangements does not meet the child’s best interests, then the Council will decide whether to explore with the birth parents a voluntary arrangement for the Council to look after the child under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, or seek from the Court a care or supervision order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989. A Care Order will materially affect the legal status of the child.

It may be that such arrangements for the child are of short duration and that the child is able to return to its birth parents’ full care with or without the continuing support of the Council. However, where the arrangements are likely to be long term, then the Council will consider in detail the issues of permanency planning and the child’s legal status to secure the child’s long term interests.

Family and friend carers may need to seek independent legal advice about the best option for their child and themselves.

### 4.3. Supporting Contact

Oldham Council has a duty under the provisions of the Children Act 1989, Schedule 2, to promote contact between a child who is not looked after by the Council, but is a child in need living away from home and their parents and family, where in the view of the Council it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare.

Making such arrangements between birth parents and family or friends carers can be difficult at times, so it is important that the arrangements are made to meet the child’s best interests. The Council will facilitate such contact where reasonable and practicable, for example, through the use of children’s centres locally.

### 4.4. Financial support for private /informal arrangements

Oldham Council expects parents to make the necessary practical and financial arrangements with the family or friend carer at the time of the arrangements, or as soon as possible thereafter to ensure that their child can be cared for properly and reasonably for however long the arrangements last.
The Council will only consider providing financial help, whether as a one-off or a regular payment to the family or friend carer where it decides that the child is a child in need and it is necessary and reasonable to do so to safeguard the child and promote its welfare. This includes the provision of child maintenance costs. The Council’s criteria of eligibility for help under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 will be applied.

- The family is in need
- Financial assistance is the only appropriate way of safeguarding and promoting their welfare
- Circumstances are ‘exceptional’ as required by the legislation

The Council may provide accommodation for a child in need under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 where a child is being cared for by family and friends carers, and the carer is prevented for whatever reason from caring for the child; where it considers that the child requires accommodation, and if the child is under 16 years of age and the person holding parental responsibility does not object.

In such circumstances, the child will become ‘looked after’ by the Council. Similarly, the Council will provide accommodation for young people aged 16 years, but under the age of 21 years, where it decides that the young person is a child in need and accommodation is required.

4.5. Private Fostering Arrangements

Where a person with parental responsibility makes arrangements for their child to live with family or friends that fall within the Private Fostering Regulations or the arrangements come to fall within the regulations the parent and carer have a duty to notify the Council of the arrangements. The Council has a duty to satisfy itself that children fostered privately are safe and their welfare promoted and therefore its social work staff will assess and decide whether the arrangements are suitable to meet the child’s needs. Carers will be offered advice and information as they need.

Any financial arrangement is made between the private foster carer and the parent(s) and will not involve the Council. These arrangements should be included in a written agreement.

Private foster carers may be able to claim child benefit and if applicable child tax credit and disability living allowances, if these are not being paid to the parents.

If private foster carers are already claiming benefits, they will need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Only in exceptional circumstances will consideration be given to support the child under Section 17 and the circumstances must meet the Council’s criteria of eligibility for help under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
It is important that partner agencies, especially those in Health and education services, remain alert to the needs of children who are living in private fostering arrangements and, where they have knowledge of such arrangements, advise Oldham Council accordingly so that it might fulfil its legal duties to both the children and the carers. Partner agencies are expected to treat with the children and their carers sensitively and be alert to their particular needs.

[cf: Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005] or see www.legislation.gov.uk

5. Public arrangements for children who are Looked After

Public arrangements are defined as the placement of children who are looked after and placed with members of their family / relatives or friends by their birth parents or the person with parental responsibility. The placement might be for a short time or permanently. These arrangements also apply to those persons being considered by the parent or considering caring for the child who is looked after.

Oldham Council will assess the suitability of carers for children looked after, taking account of the wishes of the children, so far as they are able to express their wishes, together with the wishes and views of the birth parents and the carers before it decides whether it is within the children’s best interests to live with the family or friends carers.

Where the Council approves a family or friends as carers the Council will become responsible for the placement of the children under the Fostering and Care Planning Placement Case Review regulations.

Looked after young people placed with family and friends who are care leavers are entitled to After Care services at the same level of support as if they had been looked after by non related carers

5.1. Family and Friends Foster Carer approval – Emergency assessment and temporary approval of connected people

The Council will approve as temporary foster parents family or relatives, friends or a connected person where a child has been placed with them urgently and it is not possible to carry out a full assessment. The definition of a connected person is a

“relative, friend or other person connected with a child. The latter is someone who would not fit the term 'relative or friend', but who has a pre-existing relationship with the child. It could be someone who knows the child in a more professional capacity such as (for example) a child-minder, a teacher or a youth worker.”

The period will not exceed 16 weeks, or in specific circumstances, 24 weeks. The Council will satisfy itself first that –

✓ It has ascertained key information about the proposed carers and members of their household before the placement, or immediately thereafter, and
Has made arrangements to undertake a full foster carer assessment under the Fostering regulations and National Minimum Care standards relating to fostering services.

The best interests of the children will be paramount in all such arrangements and their assessment.

Please refer to the procedure for the temporary approval of connected people for further details of the assessment process.

All family and friends foster carers temporarily approved or fully approved under the Fostering Service Regulations are in all respects foster carers and are entitled to the same level of training and support as unrelated foster carers.

Family and friends foster carers will be supported by a named allocated supervising social worker, who will be responsible for the foster carers support, supervision, training and development.

On approval, family and friends foster carers will receive a copy of the Oldham Council’s Fostering Handbook and will be asked to sign the Council’s Foster care agreement which details the expectations of carer to meet the fostering service regulations and the National minimum standards. They will also be expected to complete their CWDC induction standards within 18 months of approval.

In order to be able to achieve this, family and friends carers have equal access to the training opportunities afforded to non related carers.

Newly approved family and friends carers also have the same access to the Foster Care Forum and financial support as non related carers. (For full details please see the Councils payment guidance for foster carers)

5.2. Permanence

Children and young people need a secure, stable and permanent base in order to achieve their full potential. During the assessment process, consideration will be given to supporting the carers to apply for an appropriate legal order to give them parental responsibility through either a Child Arrangements Order, special guardianship order or adoption order, or by facilitating and supporting private arrangements with a connected person via a Child in Need Plan.

As part of the Care Planning process, the Care Plan for children will be reviewed in accordance with statutory guidelines. The review process will ensure that children and young people do not remain Looked after for longer than is necessary to secure their welfare.

Under these circumstances, the carers should be advised and supported to obtain an appropriate legal order giving them legal responsibility for the child through a Child Arrangements Order, Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order.

Family and friends foster carers who are offering a permanent placement for a child, will have access to support services irrespective of the legal status of the child and will be eligible for support, including financial support, following an
assessment of need, the allowance currently being paid to the carer and the support plan for the child and carer being drawn up.

*Oldham Council will consider the payment of the legal costs of carers applying for a Child Arrangements Order, special guardianship or adoption order where this is an agreed part of the care plan and when not doing so would lead to the child remaining looked after longer than necessary.*

6 Information and support

Oldham Council’s Family information service provides information and support to access universal child care resources such as early years provision, day care and out of school services, schools and colleges, health services, leisure facilities and youth support services. The service also has information for leisure activities and other short break provision for children with disabilities.

The contact details of the service are

**Family Information Service (FIS)**

**Freephone:** 0800 731 1518 (8.40am-5pm)

**Email:** familyinfo@oldham.gov.uk

**FIS will respond within 48 hours.**

7. Enquiries, feedback and complaints

If a young person is living with an alternative carer and involved with social services and they do not feel happy, it is important that they can tell their social worker or another adult they trust, to help to sort things out.

All looked after children and young people are given a copy of the appropriate complaints leaflets for children and young people in care. This gives the details of how they can contact the complaints and representations officer.

**Freepost – RRGY-TJSR-GHGZ**

**Complaints and Representations Officer**

**PO Box 40, Civic Centre**

**West Street, Oldham,**

**OL1 1XU**

**Phone:** 0161 770 1129

**Email:** cypf.complaints@oldham.gov.uk
In addition they can contact The Children's Society who provides a service for 5 to 18 years old children and young people who are looked after by Oldham Council. They offer information on children's rights, advocacy support regarding complaints and can help young people to give feedback and to get involved in improving the services they receive.

Contact: The Children’s Society:
Phone: 0161 633 5991
Email: oldhamchildrensrights@childrenssociety.org.uk

Approved family and friends foster carers are encouraged in the first instance to discuss any concern, complaint or dissatisfaction regarding the fostering service, with their supervising social worker or Team Manager. If the complaint can not be resolved in this way, the formal complaints procedure can be used. The Children’s Complaints & Representations Officer can be contacted at the address given above or by telephone on 0161 770 1129.

The Complaints and Representations Officer will be happy to discuss matters with you and if necessary assist you to progress your complaint, and can provide you with information about the complaint process. Information about how to progress a complaint or pay a compliment is also available on the Councils Website at http://www.oldham.gov.uk

The Complaints and Representations Officer only speaks English. However, in certain circumstances the Council will arrange to visit you with an interpreter.

Comments and compliments
We also like to hear from family and finds carers if they have a comment or suggestion or would like to compliment Oldham Council or its partners.

The process is similar to making a complaint. The carer can either speak to or write to the person who is in charge of the service or contact the Complaints and Representations Officer.

Whether carers are making a complaint or comment or paying a compliment, Oldham Council take all feedback seriously and use it when planning and reviewing services.

8. Glossary of Terms

Connected person is a relative, friend or other person connected with a child. The latter is someone who would not fit the term 'relative or friend', but who has a pre-existing relationship with the child. It could be someone who knows the child in a more professional capacity such as (for example) a child-minder, a teacher or a youth worker."

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity).

Children in need are defined in law as children who are aged under 18 and:-
• need local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development
• need local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development
• are disabled

The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families provides a systematic basis for collecting and analysing information to support professional judgements about how to help children and families in the best interests of the child.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (s17) defines the duties of a local authority in safeguarding and promoting the general welfare of a child in need and her/his family within their area.

Assistance given to families under S17 includes financial assistance

A Child Arrangements order decides where the child is to live and with whom. The granting of a child arrangements order to someone automatically gives him or her parental responsibility for the child if they do not already have it.

Parental Responsibility obtained as a result of a Child Arrangements Order will continue until the order ceases. Parental Responsibility is not removed from the parents but they are limited as to how they exercise this. A Child Arrangements order lasts until the child is 16 or 18 if the circumstances of the case are exceptional and the court has ordered that it continue for longer.

A Special Guardianship Order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s “Special Guardian” It is a private law order made under the Children Act 1989 and is intended for those children who cannot live with their birth parents and who would benefit from a legally secure placement. It is a more secure order than a Child Arrangement Order because a parent cannot apply to discharge it unless they have the permission of the court to do so, however, it is less secure than an Adoption Order because it does not end the legal relationship between the child and his/her birthparents.
### 9. Useful contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)</td>
<td>Saffron House 6-10 Kirby Street LONDON EC1N 8TS Tel: 020 7421 2600 <a href="http://www.baaf.org.uk">www.baaf.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Information about adoption and fostering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directgov</td>
<td><a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Website offering advice about a range of sites relating to family, finance and benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham Bereavement Centre for children and adults</td>
<td>Oldham Bereavement Service website 0161 627 8207 <a href="mailto:oldhambereavement@hotmail.co.uk">oldhambereavement@hotmail.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Offers bereavement counselling for adults and has a separate children and young persons team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Rights Group (FRG)</td>
<td>Second Floor The Print House 18 Ashwin Street London E8 3DL Tel: 020 7923 2628 Advice Line: 0800 801 0366 <a href="http://www.frg.org.uk">www.frg.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Provides parents and other family members whose children are involved or require children's social care services because of welfare needs or concerns. Publishes resources, helps develop support groups and runs a discussion board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering Network</td>
<td>The Fostering Network 87 Blackfriars Road LONDON SE1 8BR Tel: 020 7620 6400</td>
<td>The Fostering Network is a charity working throughout the UK to promote and improve quality of the foster carers. Publishes resources and runs “Fosterline”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Name</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Grandparents’ Association (The) | Moot House  
The Stow  
Harlow  
Essex  
Tel: 01279 428 040  
Helpline: 0845 434 9585  
Welfare benefits and advice information: 0844 357 1033  
www.grandparents-association.org.uk | a confidential advice line for foster carers. Supports grandparents and their families, especially those who have ‘lost family’ problems, those caring for their grandchildren on a full-time basis and those with child care responsibilities for their grandchildren. |
| Grandparents Plus             | 18 Victoria Park Square  
Bethnal Green  
LONDON  
E2  9PF  
0300 123 7015  
advice@grandparentsplus.org.uk  
www.grandparentsplus.org.uk | Advice and information service and champions the role of grandparents. |
| Kidscape                     | Tel: 08451 205 204  
www.kidscape.org.uk | Helpline for young children who are being bullied. |
| NSPCC – Child Protection Line | 0800 800 5000 (freephone)  
www.nspcc.org.uk | Helpline for children and young people who are being bullied. |
| NHS Direct                   | Tel: 0845 4647 | Health advice. |
| Somebody Else’s Child        | www.privatefostering.co.uk | Advice about private fostering |
| Voice                        | Tel: 0800 800 5792 (Freephone) | Helpline for children and young people in care. |