



**2025–2026**

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# **Statement of Purpose**

Sir Robert Peel House,  
Suite 003, Ground Floor  
344-348 High Road  
Ilford IG1 1QP



## Statement of Purpose 2025–2026

Approved by : \_\_\_\_\_

**Responsible Individual**

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by : \_\_\_\_\_

**Registered Manager**

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Version	Date	Author	Summary of Changes
1.0	2025	Registered Manager	Full revision following Ofsted feedback

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## Introduction & Governance

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to delivering safe, stable and high-quality foster placements. Our practice promotes measurable improvements in children's welfare, safety, education and emotional wellbeing.

It is a requirement as per the Fostering Services England Regulations 2011 and National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services that each fostering agency produces a Statement of Purpose, including its aims and objectives, and a description of the services and facilities that are provided. This Statement of Purpose gives an outline of those requirements, how the service is managed and its fitness to provide fostering services. It aims to show the policy and performance framework that underpins our work and shows how good outcomes would be achieved for all children. It also demonstrates the systems that we will set in place to recruit, train, supervise and support foster carers. The Statement of Purpose also links with the Children's Guide that will be provided to all children, subject to their age and understanding at the point of placement.

This statement will be available to all staff, foster carers, children and will be publicly available on our fostering website. A copy of this statement is also being lodged with Ofsted.

*This statement will be updated and amended periodically.*

## Vision, Mission & Values

We aim to provide stable placements, promote permanence, support foster carers professionally and achieve positive life outcomes for children.

Britannia fostering agency which primarily seek to promote the upbringing of children by their families in accordance with the spirit and provision of the Children Act 1989. When it is either not safe or not appropriate for a child to remain in the care of his/her/their birth parent(s) the agency aims to promote the best possible outcomes for the children concerned through the provision of high-quality substitute family care, wherever possible with a relative or friend of the children, but where this is not possible with a mainstream foster carer.

We place children at the centre of all decision-making. Safeguarding, partnership working, inclusion and continuous improvement underpin our service delivery.

The values which underpin Britannia Fostering Agency accord with the values, as given in the National Minimum Standards:

The child's welfare, safety and needs are at the center of their care. Children should have an enjoyable childhood, benefiting from excellent parenting and education, enjoying a wide range of opportunities to develop their talents and skills leading to a successful adult life. Children are entitled to grow up in a loving environment that can meet their developmental needs.

Every child should have his or her wishes and feelings listened to and taken into account.

Each child should be valued as an individual and given personalized support in line with his/her individual needs and background in order to develop his/her identity, self-confidence and self-worth.

The needs of especially abled children and children with complex needs are fully recognized and taken into account.

The significance of contact for looked after children, and of maintaining relationships with birth parents and the wider family, including siblings, half-siblings and grandparents, is recognized, as is the foster carer's role in this.

Children in foster care deserve to be treated as a good parent would treat their own children and to have the opportunity for as full an experience of family life and childhood as possible, without unnecessary restrictions.

The central importance of the child's relationship with his/her foster carer should be acknowledged and foster carers should be recognized as core members of the team working with the child.

Foster carers have a right to full information about the child.

## **Legal & Policy Framework (Children Act, Fostering Regulations)**

Britannia Fostering Agency will be run in accordance with the principles outlined in:

- I. The Children Act 1989
- II. Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- III. Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2013 (Amendments to the Children Act 1989)
- IV. Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards (2011)
- V. Children Act Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services (2011)
- VI. Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010
- VII. Care Planning and Fostering Regulations (Amendments) 2015
- VIII. The Disability and Equality Act 2010
- IX. The Human Rights Act 1998
- X. The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- XI. Training, Support and Development Standards (TSD) for Foster Carers

### **Services Provided**

**We provide short-term, long-term, emergency, solo, bridging, sibling, parent and child, disability and unaccompanied minor placements.**

The Fostering Service aims to develop and maintain a range of foster care placements to meet the needs of children and young people.

Many of the children placed have experienced difficulties, including abuse or neglect, before being fostered. Britannia Fostering Agency assesses, approves and supports a wide range of carers to provide a range of placements to match children's diverse needs.

All Britannia foster carers are financially supported through payment of appropriate remuneration in respect of each child in placement. They comply with Regulations, Statutory Guidance, the National Minimum Standards and the Britannia Fostering Agency – Statement of Purpose and Training, Support and Development (TSD) Standards for Foster Carers.

## **Britannia Fostering Agency offers the following categories of placement:**

### **1. Short term care**

Care up to 2 years' duration or a period in keeping with the care plan for the child and court timetabling. Such carers are often involved in moving children on to other placements in a planned way.

### **2. Long-term care**

Care offering permanence through to adulthood for children who have been formally matched with their carers. This includes an engagement with the 'Staying Put' scheme when the young person reaches 18 years old.

### **3. Respite care**

Short breaks for children to support them in the community or whilst their own foster carers are away.

### **4. Emergency placements**

We aim to provide a 24 hour a day emergency service. Many carers choose to specialize in short term work and are able to accept unplanned, emergency placements. An emergency placement ideally should not exceed a few days and it would be anticipated that the child or young person should be moved to a more suitable placement within a week in a planned way.

### **5. Bridging placements**

We can provide bridging placements for children or young people while permanency plans are being formulated. In such placements, our foster carers work with children/young people and their families toward reunification, or prepare children/young people for joining adoptive or long term/permanent fostering families, or for moving to a semi-independent or an independent living arrangement.

### **6. Solo placements**

To look after children and young people who may make considerable demands upon them and also upon the services of the Agency. However, occasionally a child or young person has very specific and complex needs which, initially at least, requires a

higher than usual level of support, monitoring and supervision. Because of his/her needs, a child or young person may require constant individual attention and supervision that precludes the placement of any other fostered children/young people or prohibits the use of any remaining placement vacancies within the foster home. With such placements there is usually higher-level input from the Agency.

## **7. Unaccompanied Minors**

To build a pool of very experienced foster carers from diverse backgrounds who are willing to advocate, access services and work within the child's care plan in supporting and caring for unaccompanied children and young people from outside the UK.

## **8. Children with Disability**

Foster carers who have experience and skills in caring for children and young people who are disabled and/or require specialist medical care.

## **9. Sibling placements**

Sibling placements are for children who all are placed together into a foster care household. We believe in keeping siblings together within a family environment, unless it is deemed inappropriate by the placing Authority.

## **10. Parent and child placements**

Placements are available for mothers and/or fathers and their child, where foster carers can provide support and guidance to parent(s) and help them develop parenting skills. If requested, and by arrangement with the placing Local Authority, a formal assessment of parenting ability can be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced Britannia staff in conjunction with the Britannia foster carer. Comprehensive written assessment reports, for use in child protection conferences, planning meetings, statutory reviews or court proceedings, can be prepared.

## **Foster Carer Recruitment**

There is a need for more placements for teenagers, as observed from the referrals the agency receives on a daily basis. There is also a need for more placements for children requiring long-term care, children with disabilities, those who are part of a sibling group or are from a black or minority ethnic group.

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to recruiting foster carers who can provide **safe, stable, and nurturing homes for children and young people in care**. The recruitment process is designed to ensure that all prospective foster carers are suitable, well-prepared, and able to meet the needs of children in accordance with the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services**.

The agency promotes **equality, diversity, and inclusion** and welcomes applications from individuals and families from a wide range of backgrounds who have the commitment, patience, and skills required to support children who may have experienced trauma or disruption.

Prospective foster carers usually begin the process by making an **initial enquiry** through the agency's website, telephone, or referral. During the initial discussion, the recruitment team provides information about the role of a foster carer, eligibility criteria, and the responsibilities involved in fostering. Applicants who wish to proceed are invited to complete an **application form** and may receive an initial home visit to discuss fostering in more detail.

All applicants undergo a **rigorous assessment process** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. This includes enhanced **DBS checks, medical checks, references, and local authority checks**, along with participation in the **Skills to Foster training programme**. A comprehensive **Form F assessment** is then completed by a qualified assessing social worker, which evaluates the applicant's background, parenting capacity, home environment, and motivation to foster.

Once the assessment is completed, the report is presented to the **Fostering Panel**, which reviews the application and makes a recommendation regarding approval. The final decision is made by the **Agency Decision Maker**. Approved foster carers are given clear terms of approval, allocated a **supervising social worker**, and provided with ongoing training and support.

The agency continuously reviews its recruitment practices to ensure that it attracts and retains foster carers who are able to meet the **individual needs, safety, and welfare of children placed in foster care**.

The fostering service has an ongoing recruitment strategy that uses a variety of media to recruit new carers. The strategy is informed by research on the most successfully employed advertising methods and is targeted to help ensure all children have a placement choice.

## Foster Carer Assessment and Approval

Interests are welcome from all members of the community, regardless of relationship status, employment situation, class, gender, sexuality, culture, ethnicity or religion.

Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that all prospective foster carers undergo a **thorough and robust assessment process** to determine their suitability to provide safe and nurturing care for children and young people. The assessment and approval process follows the requirements set out in the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011** and the **National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services**.

Once an application is received, a qualified **assessing social worker** is assigned to complete a detailed assessment, commonly known as the **Form F assessment**. This process involves a series of home visits, interviews with applicants and household members, and the gathering of information about the applicant's background, lifestyle, parenting capacity, and motivation to foster.

As part of the assessment, the agency conducts several safeguarding checks, including **Enhanced DBS checks, medical reports, personal and professional references, and local authority checks**. The home environment is also assessed to ensure it provides a safe and suitable setting for children.

Applicants are required to attend the **Skills to Foster training programme**, which helps prepare them for the fostering role and provides an understanding of the needs of children in care.

Once the assessment is completed, the assessing social worker prepares a comprehensive report which is presented to the **Fostering Panel**. The panel reviews the assessment and makes a recommendation regarding the applicant's suitability and the terms of approval.

The final decision is made by the **Agency Decision Maker**, who considers the panel's recommendation and the full assessment report. If approved, foster carers are informed of the **terms of approval**, including the number, age range, and type of children they are approved to care for.

Following approval, foster carers receive ongoing **training, supervision, and support** from the agency to ensure they can provide high-quality care and meet the needs of the children placed with them.

## Regulations and Statutory Guidance

The assessment of a foster carer takes place in the applicant's home over a period of six to eight visits, plus reference interviews and interviews involving other relevant parties. The social worker will assess past and present experiences, any significant relationships, family dynamics and the characteristics of the foster carers to inform the assessment. The assessor will also use

this process to assess the applicant's suitability to foster children with differing needs. The assessment is then presented to the fostering panel.

Britannia Fostering Agency fostering panel makes recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker who then makes a final decision. Any appeals can be made within 28 days and may either make further representation to the fostering panel or have their assessment considered by the Independent Review Mechanism which in turn will make a recommendation back to the agency.

### **Fostering Panel Procedures**

The Fostering Panel plays a key role in ensuring that **high standards are maintained in the recruitment, approval, and review of foster carers**. Britannia Fostering Agency operates a Fostering Panel in accordance with the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services**.

The panel is made up of a range of experienced and independent members, which may include a **Panel Chair, qualified social workers, independent panel members, and a medical adviser** where required. This diverse membership ensures that decisions and recommendations are made with professional expertise and impartiality.

The primary function of the Fostering Panel is to **review assessments and make recommendations** regarding the approval of prospective foster carers. The panel also considers **foster carer annual reviews, changes to terms of approval, and any serious concerns relating to foster carers**.

Prior to each meeting, panel members receive relevant documents and reports, such as the **Form F assessment, annual review reports, and supporting checks**, to allow them sufficient time to review the information. Applicants are usually invited to attend the panel meeting to answer questions and provide further clarification if required.

Following discussion, the panel makes a **recommendation regarding approval or any changes to a foster carer's status**. The final decision is made by the **Agency Decision Maker (ADM)**, who considers the panel's recommendation and the supporting documentation.

All panel meetings are properly recorded, and clear minutes are maintained to ensure transparency and accountability. The Fostering Panel operates with the aim of ensuring that **only suitable and well-prepared individuals are approved as foster carers, thereby safeguarding the welfare and best interests of children placed in foster care**.

## Placement Procedures

Britannia Fostering Agency aims to ensure that every placement is carefully planned and matched to meet the **individual needs, safety, and wellbeing of the child or young person**. The placement process is carried out in accordance with the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services**.

When a referral is received from a local authority, the agency's placement team reviews the information provided, including the child's **background, needs, risks, and placement requirements**. The agency then considers available foster carers and identifies those whose skills, experience, and home environment are best suited to meet the child's needs.

A **matching process** is undertaken to ensure compatibility between the child and the foster carer. This may include consideration of factors such as the child's age, cultural background, health needs, education, and any specific behavioural or emotional support required.

Where a suitable match is identified, the foster carer is provided with all relevant information about the child to allow them to make an informed decision about accepting the placement. Whenever possible, a **placement planning meeting** is held involving the local authority, foster carer, and supervising social worker to agree on the care arrangements and expectations.

Once the placement is confirmed, a **placement agreement** is completed outlining the responsibilities of all parties, including arrangements for education, health care, contact with birth family, and support services.

Following the placement, the supervising social worker maintains regular contact with the foster carer and the child to ensure the placement remains stable and that the child's needs are being met. Any concerns or changes in circumstances are addressed promptly in partnership with the placing local authority.

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Britannia Fostering Agency places the **safeguarding and protection of children and young people at the centre of all its practices**. The agency is committed to ensuring that every child placed in foster care is protected from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. All safeguarding practices are carried out in accordance with the **Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, and relevant local safeguarding procedures**.

All staff and foster carers share a responsibility to **promote the welfare of children and respond promptly to any safeguarding concerns**. Foster carers receive training in safeguarding and child protection so that they are able to recognise signs of abuse, neglect, or risk and take appropriate action.

If any safeguarding concern arises, it must be **reported immediately to the supervising social worker or the agency's safeguarding lead**. The concern will be recorded, assessed, and referred to the relevant local authority safeguarding team where necessary. The agency works closely with local authorities, police, and other professionals to ensure that concerns are investigated appropriately and that children receive the protection and support they need.

Britannia Fostering Agency maintains clear procedures for **reporting incidents, managing allegations, and supporting children who may be at risk**. All allegations or concerns are treated seriously and handled in a fair, transparent, and timely manner.

The agency also ensures that foster carers provide a **safe home environment**, promote positive relationships, respect children's rights, and support children in expressing their views and concerns. Through regular supervision, training, and monitoring, the agency ensures that safeguarding remains a **continuous and central part of foster care practice**.

If the Agency believes there is a safeguarding concern, they will adhere to the safeguarding procedures of the relevant Local Authority and notify the Local Authority's children's social care team by telephone as a matter of priority.

*Please see Britannia Fostering Agency Safeguarding Procedures.*

All allegations in relation to foster carers are investigated by the Team Manager and reported to the Designated Officer (formerly called **LADO**) in line with Britannia Fostering Agency Safeguarding Procedures.

Foster Carers are offered independent support during this process from The Fostering Network/alike service.

## **Training and Supervision**

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to ensuring that foster carers are **well trained, supported, and supervised** so they can provide high-quality care for children and young people. The agency recognises that fostering can be complex and challenging and therefore provides continuous training and professional support to help foster carers develop the skills and knowledge required for their role.

All prospective foster carers are required to complete **pre-approval training**, including the *Skills to Foster* programme, which introduces them to the responsibilities of fostering and the needs of children in care. After approval, foster carers are expected to participate in **ongoing training and professional development**, which may include safeguarding, behaviour management, first aid, attachment and trauma, and equality and diversity.

Each foster carer is allocated a **Supervising Social Worker (SSW)** who provides regular supervision and guidance. Supervision meetings are normally held **at least once a month** and provide an opportunity to discuss the progress and wellbeing of the child, any challenges faced by the foster carer, and any additional support or training needs.

The agency also provides **24-hour support**, ensuring that foster carers can access advice and assistance whenever required. Foster carers are encouraged to attend **support groups, workshops, and training sessions** organised by the agency to promote learning, peer support, and sharing of experiences.

Through regular supervision, training, and annual reviews, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that foster carers continue to meet the required standards and are able to provide **safe, stable, and supportive environments for children placed in their care**.

Carers receive regular supervision, annual reviews, mandatory training and 24-hour support and sharing of experiences.

Through regular supervision, training, and annual reviews, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that foster carers continue to meet the required standards and are able to provide **safe, stable, and supportive environments for children placed in their care.**

Carers receive regular supervision, annual reviews, mandatory training and 24-hour support.

All foster carers are supported and supervised by a supervising social worker. Foster carers may also contact Britannia Fostering Agency for advice and support.

Foster carers can still access support from Britannia Fostering Agency staff outside of office hours.

Foster carers have access to a developing network of support groups and in-house training.

Foster carers who are assessed as needing respite on a planned basis can access respite services with other foster carers.

Foster Carers have access to an equipment store for items such as car seats and baby equipment.

Foster Carers are provided with membership of the Fostering Network/alike service including independent support and legal advice.

On approval, foster carers are required to undertake a program of continuing professional development and are offered training that reflects their knowledge, skills and developmental needs.

## **Health and Education Support**

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to promoting the **health, wellbeing, and educational development of all children and young people placed in foster care.** The agency works closely with foster carers, local authorities, health professionals, and schools to ensure that each child receives the support they need to achieve positive outcomes.

Upon placement, foster carers ensure that the child is **registered with a General Practitioner (GP), dentist, and other relevant health services** where required. Foster carers support children in attending routine health appointments, medical assessments, and any specialist services

recommended by healthcare professionals. The agency encourages healthy lifestyles by promoting good nutrition, physical activity, and emotional wellbeing.

In relation to education, the agency recognises that **consistent school attendance and educational stability are vital for a child's development**. Foster carers work in partnership with schools, designated teachers, and the placing local authority to support the child's educational progress. This may include supporting homework, attending school meetings, and encouraging participation in learning and extracurricular activities.

Each child in care has a **Personal Education Plan (PEP)** which identifies their educational needs and goals. Foster carers and supervising social workers support the implementation of the PEP and monitor the child's progress to ensure they are receiving appropriate educational support.

Britannia Fostering Agency aims to ensure that every child in placement has access to the **health care, emotional support, and educational opportunities necessary to promote their overall development and future independence**.

## Missing Child Procedure

Britannia Fostering Agency recognises that when a child goes missing from care, it may place them at **significant risk of harm or exploitation**. The agency is committed to responding promptly and effectively to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing. All procedures are followed in accordance with **local safeguarding partnership protocols, the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, and national guidance on children missing from care**.

If a child or young person goes missing from the foster home, the foster carer must take **immediate action**. This includes attempting to locate the child by contacting friends, relatives, or places the child is known to visit. If the child cannot be located within a short period of time, the foster carer must **inform the police immediately and report the incident as a missing person**.

The foster carer must also notify the **Supervising Social Worker or the agency's out-of-hours support service**, who will inform the child's placing local authority

and any other relevant professionals. All incidents must be **recorded accurately**, including the time the child was reported missing, actions taken, and any known information about the child's whereabouts.

When the child returns, the foster carer must notify the **police, supervising social worker, and local authority** immediately. A **return home interview** may be arranged by the local authority to understand why the child went missing and to identify any safeguarding concerns.

Following the incident, the agency will review the circumstances and may update the **risk assessment and care plan** to help prevent future occurrences. Foster carers will be supported in managing the situation and ensuring that appropriate measures are put in place to promote the child's safety and wellbeing.

## Complaints and Allegations

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to maintaining a **transparent and fair process for managing complaints and allegations** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and to promote accountability within the service. The agency recognises the importance of listening to the views of children, foster carers, staff, and other stakeholders and responding to concerns in a timely and professional manner.

Any complaint relating to the services provided by the agency may be raised by **children in care, foster carers, staff members, placing authorities, or members of the public**. Complaints should initially be addressed through an **informal resolution process**, where concerns are discussed with the supervising social worker or relevant manager in an attempt to resolve the matter quickly.

If the issue cannot be resolved informally, a **formal complaint procedure** may be initiated. The complaint will be acknowledged and investigated by an appropriate senior member of staff. All complaints are recorded, reviewed, and responded to within agreed timescales, ensuring fairness and transparency throughout the process.

Allegations made against foster carers or staff members are treated with the **utmost seriousness** and handled in accordance with safeguarding procedures and local authority protocols. Where an allegation involves potential harm to a child, the matter will be **immediately reported to the relevant safeguarding authorities**, including the placing local authority and, where appropriate, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

During the investigation process, the welfare and safety of the child remain the **highest priority**. Foster carers and staff members will also be treated fairly and supported throughout the process. Appropriate actions will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation, which may include additional training, review of approval status, or other necessary measures.

The agency regularly reviews complaints and allegations to **identify lessons learned and improve the quality of services provided**, ensuring that the best interests of children remain central to all practices.

### **Britannia Fostering Agency**

**Address:** Sir Robert Peel House Suite 003 Ground Floor,  
344-348 High Rd, Ilford IG1 1QP

**Phone numbers: 0208 553 2459**

**info@britanniafostering.co.uk | www.britanniafostering.co.uk**

All complaints made to the service will be subject to a monitoring procedure. This will assist the service to develop.

### **Equality and Diversity**

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to promoting **equality, diversity, and inclusion** in all areas of its work. The agency recognises and respects the unique backgrounds, identities, and experiences of children, foster carers, staff, and families. All individuals are treated with **fairness, dignity, and respect**, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, or cultural background.

The agency aims to ensure that every child placed in foster care is supported in maintaining their **cultural identity, beliefs, language, and traditions** wherever possible. Foster carers are encouraged and supported to promote an inclusive

environment that values diversity and helps children develop a positive sense of identity and belonging.

Britannia Fostering Agency also seeks to recruit foster carers from **diverse communities** to better meet the varied needs of children requiring placements. Equality of opportunity is promoted throughout recruitment, training, and support processes.

All staff and foster carers receive training on **equality, diversity, and anti-discriminatory practice**, enabling them to understand the impact of discrimination and to promote inclusive care. Any form of discrimination, harassment, or unfair treatment is taken seriously and addressed through the agency's policies and procedures.

Through these practices, Britannia Fostering Agency aims to create an environment where **diversity is valued and every child is supported to thrive in a safe and inclusive setting**.

## **Data Protection and Confidentiality**

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to ensuring that all personal information relating to children, foster carers, staff, and other stakeholders is **handled securely, lawfully, and confidentially**. The agency complies with the requirements of the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018**.

All information collected and maintained by the agency is used solely for **professional and safeguarding purposes**. Records relating to children and foster carers are kept accurate, up to date, and stored securely to prevent unauthorised access, loss, or misuse.

Staff members and foster carers are required to **maintain strict confidentiality** when handling sensitive information. Personal data must only be shared with authorised professionals who require the information to support the welfare and safeguarding of the child. Any sharing of information is carried out in accordance with legal requirements and safeguarding procedures.

The agency maintains clear procedures for **record keeping, data storage, and information sharing**, including secure electronic systems and locked storage for physical records. Access to confidential records is restricted to authorised personnel only.

Training and guidance are provided to staff and foster carers to ensure they understand their responsibilities in relation to **data protection, confidentiality, and appropriate information handling**.

Through these measures, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that sensitive information is managed responsibly while supporting effective communication between professionals involved in the care and protection of children.

## Health and Safety

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to ensuring that all foster homes provide a **safe, secure, and healthy environment** for children and young people placed in care. The agency operates in accordance with relevant **health and safety legislation and regulatory standards**, ensuring that risks are identified, assessed, and managed appropriately.

Before a foster carer is approved, the home environment is assessed to ensure it meets **health and safety requirements**, including adequate space, safe sleeping arrangements, fire safety measures, and general home safety. Risk assessments are carried out to identify potential hazards and ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

Foster carers are expected to maintain a **safe living environment** for children at all times. This includes ensuring that the home is clean and secure, hazardous materials are stored safely, and safety equipment such as smoke alarms and fire exits are properly maintained. Where appropriate, carers must also follow safe practices when transporting children or supervising activities.

The agency provides **guidance and training** to foster carers on health and safety matters, including fire safety, safe care practices, and managing risks within the home. Supervising social workers also monitor health and safety during regular visits to ensure standards are maintained.

Any accidents, incidents, or hazards must be **reported promptly to the agency**, recorded appropriately, and reviewed to prevent recurrence. Through ongoing monitoring and support, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that the health, safety, and wellbeing of children remain a **top priority in every foster placement**.

## Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to maintaining **high standards of care and continuous service improvement** through an effective quality assurance and monitoring framework. The agency regularly reviews its practices and procedures to ensure compliance with the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, and Ofsted requirements.**

Quality assurance is achieved through a range of monitoring activities, including **regular supervision of foster carers, annual foster carer reviews, internal audits, and feedback from children, foster carers, and placing authorities.** These processes help the agency evaluate the effectiveness of its services and identify areas for improvement.

Supervising social workers monitor the progress and wellbeing of children through **regular visits, supervision sessions, and communication with foster carers and other professionals** involved in the child's care. Records and case files are reviewed periodically to ensure they are accurate, up to date, and compliant with regulatory standards.

The agency also reviews **complaints, incidents, safeguarding concerns, and placement outcomes** to identify patterns or lessons that may inform improvements in practice. Feedback from children and young people is particularly valued and is used to improve the quality of care and support provided.

Through continuous monitoring, evaluation, and improvement planning, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that its services remain **safe, effective, and responsive to the needs of children and foster carers.**

## Service Improvement and Annual Review

Britannia Fostering Agency is committed to the **continuous improvement of its fostering services** to ensure that children and young people receive high-quality care and support. The agency regularly reviews its policies, procedures, and operational practices to ensure compliance with the **Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, and Ofsted requirements.**

As part of its quality assurance framework, the agency conducts an **annual service review** to evaluate the effectiveness of its fostering provision. This review considers key areas such as placement stability, safeguarding practices, foster carer

recruitment and retention, training and development, and feedback from children, foster carers, and placing authorities.

The annual review also includes an assessment of **complaints, incidents, allegations, and outcomes for children** to identify trends and areas where improvements may be required. Feedback gathered from stakeholders is used to inform the agency's **service development and improvement plans**.

Following the review, the agency develops an **action plan** outlining priorities for improvement, including updates to policies, additional training requirements, and enhancements to operational practices. Progress against these plans is monitored by the management team to ensure that improvements are implemented effectively.

Through regular evaluation and proactive planning, Britannia Fostering Agency ensures that its services continue to evolve and maintain **high standards of care, safety, and support for children and foster carers**.

## **Regulations and Statutory Guidance**

The assessment of a foster carer takes place in the applicant's home over a period of six to eight visits, plus reference interviews and interviews involving other relevant parties. The social worker will assess past and present experiences, any significant relationships, family dynamics and the characteristics of the foster carers to inform the assessment. The assessor will also use this process to assess the applicant's suitability to foster children with differing needs. The assessment is then presented to the fostering panel.

Britannia Fostering Agency fostering panel makes recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker who then makes a final decision. Any appeals can be made within 28 days and may either make further representation to the fostering panel or have their assessment considered by the Independent Review Mechanism which in turn will make a recommendation back to the agency.

Quarterly audits, performance reporting and service improvement planning ensure continuous development.

Overall responsibility for Britannia Fostering Agency rests with the Responsible Individual.

Overall responsibility for all practice related matters rests with the Registered Manager.

The performance of Britannia Fostering Agency will be monitored at several levels and in a variety of ways:

Ofsted inspects Britannia Fostering Agency to ensure it complies with the Social Care Inspection Framework which focuses 'on the things that matter most to children's lives.

Britannia Fostering Agency's overall business performance is monitored by the Management Team.

Individual staff performance is monitored in staff supervision. Activity will be monitored, and targets set, against agreed actions.

## **Leadership and Complaint Management**

The Responsible Individual and Registered Manager provide clear accountability and oversight governance.

### **Supervising Social Workers:**

- I. Mr Azhar Amir
- II. Mrs Rumana Khan
- III. Mrs Zainab Jabin

**Administrator:** Ms Pooja Gajengi

All social workers have appropriate qualification and are registered with the Social Work England (Regulatory body for social workers in England).

A transparent complaints process is accessible to children, carers and stakeholders.

Britannia Fostering Agency has a complaints procedure. The procedure is made available to all children, parents and foster carers. A guide to making complaints is also available for children who are placed with foster carers and is in the **Children's Guide**.

### **You can contact us at:**

Britannia Fostering Agency,  
Sir Robert Peel House, Suite 003,  
344-348 High Rd, Ilford IG1 1QP  
Ph: 020 8553 2459

[info@britanniafostering.co.uk](mailto:info@britanniafostering.co.uk) | [www.britanniafostering.co.uk](http://www.britanniafostering.co.uk)