

# TACT

## Statement of Purpose

### The Adolescent and Children's Trust

The Statement of Purpose is designed to inform the reader about the values, aims and objectives of TACT. It includes information about services provided, children in placement, the recruitment, assessment, training and development of our carers. It also includes some information about staff.

TACT in Scotland is registered as a fostering agency with:

Care Inspectorate, Compass House, 11 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY

Care Inspectorate Enquiries: 0345 600 9527

Email: [enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

## **1. Introduction**

TACT Scotland registered as a fostering agency with the Care Commission in July 2008.

All work undertaken by TACT is governed by:

- Legislation, regulation and guidance.
- The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Guidance on Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007

National Care Standards: foster care and family placement services 2002,  
Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice for social service workers and employers.

TACT policies and procedures

## **2. Background**

The Adolescent and Children's Trust is a charitable independent fostering and adoption agency governed by its Memorandum of Articles and Association, Charity Number 1018963. TACT is also a Limited Company by Guarantee, Company Registration Number 2779751.

TACT was set up to serve the south east London area and the headquarters remain based in London. Services have developed across the country and there are now the following areas served by TACT: London and South East, East London, West Midlands, East Midlands, Bristol and South West, North West England, Yorkshire, Cymru and Scotland. The London base includes corporate functions of finance and human resources.

TACT is governed by a board of trustees which includes people with a wide range of experiences, including child care, education, legal and financial.

TACT opened its Scotland office in September 2007 in Canaan Lane Morningside Edinburgh. This accommodation is temporary and has served to allow the service to become established.

Permanent accommodation has been purchased and renovated. The staff moved there in February 2010. The new office is located at:

Slateford House  
51 – 53 Lanark Road  
Edinburgh EH14 1TL

### **3. Services Provided.**

- The recruitment, assessment, training and development of short and long term foster carers.
- Fostering of children and young people aged 0 – 17 years
- Placements of sibling groups.
- Foster carer support groups.
- Ongoing support to individual carers by their supervising social worker
- Establishment of a fostering panel.
- Development of working relationships with Local Authorities across Scotland
- Working alongside other providers and local authorities to identify and meet children's needs.

### **4. Scotland's Staff.**

See attached Who's Who document

### **5. TACT's Charitable Objectives**

- To relieve children and young people, who by reason of their circumstances have need of foster, adoptive or substitute care by placing children in foster homes or adoptive placements and by training foster or adoptive parents to deal with the needs of the children in their care.
- Otherwise to promote the care and upbringing and establishment in life of children in need thereof including by promotion of their health, development and education attainment and particularly children in fostering or adoptive care.

## 6. Our Vision

Together we are creating a world where every young person is raised by people who care; where communities flourish because we help young people build lives full of opportunity and choice.

## 7. Our Mission

We are harnessing the strength of families, communities and organisations to unconditionally support and encourage children and young people to achieve their full potential.

## 8. Our Values

- **Aspirational** - by helping others to grow, we grow ourselves
- **Passionate** - we are determined to keep improving what we do. We will ambitiously pursue the best outcomes for everyone we work with.
- **Engaged** - we want to listen well and respond quickly to the people we work with - children and young people, their birth families, carers, our staff and supporters.
- **Fair and Equitable** - we will be open and transparent, communicating what we do and why we do it, based on equality and respect for all
- **Beyond Profit** - we will make every decision based on what is best for children and young people. We will deliver excellent services as efficiently as possible in order to continually invest in the people we work with.

TACT, as an organisation, believes:

- All children have the right to a permanent family in which they are able to grow and develop as unique individuals
- Every looked after and accommodated child should benefit from an individual plan to address their specific needs.
- All children have the right to be involved in planning their own futures.
- All children should take with them memories of a positive experience of their time of being looked after – when they leave
- Individuals with parental responsibilities have the right to be involved in making decisions about their child's future
- Proper use must be made of the theory and considerable knowledge that is available relating to child care and child development.
- Every individual involved in TACT's child care programmes should benefit from appropriate training and development opportunities.
- All people involved with TACT will receive the best treatment possible irrespective of gender, age, disability, marital status, race, ethnicity or religion.

## **9. Recruitment, Assessment and Approval Process for Foster Carers**

The following process is followed for applicants who wish to become approved foster carers with TACT.

- Initial telephone enquiry from applicant/s. Information and application form is sent out.
- Application form is returned.
- Allocated for initial visit.
- Initial visit is carried out and supervising social worker then makes recommendation to proceed or not with a form F assessment.
- If the decision is not to proceed, the applicant/s is informed verbally and this is followed up in writing.
- If the decision is to proceed the assessment is allocated to a social worker
- All references and checks (PVG Scheme, health, local authority etc) are taken up.
- Applicant/s must attend preparation course for fostering.
- When the form F assessment is completed and all checks and references are returned it is taken to the Fostering Panel for recommendation. Applicant/s is invited to attend the Panel and participate in the process.
- On the basis of the panel recommendation the agency decision maker decides on whether or not to approve. Applicant/s is informed in writing of the outcome.

## **10. The Fostering Panel**

TACT has in place a fostering panel which carries out functions as outlined in regulation and guidance. The panel makes recommendations on approval, variation of registration and termination of approval of applicants.

The TACT panel has wide representation including health visiting, social work education, a young person who grew up in foster care, a foster carer, an independent social worker who grew up in a family who fostered. There is an independent medical advisor and legal advisor to the panel.

## **11. Children's Guide**

TACT has a Guide for children and young people cared for by the Charity. It has information about being in care and what carers can do to help the young person. It advises young people on how to get help if they are unhappy or wish to complain.

## **12. Training, Support and Reviewing Process for Foster Carers.**

- TACT has an annual training and development programme and foster carers have their individual training plan linked to the programme. The core programme includes training sessions on first aid, equality and diversity, child

protection, sexual abuse/trauma, safer caring, attachment and managing behaviour.

Foster Carers are supported to attend training that is required of them.

- Foster Carers are allocated a senior supervising social worker with a manageable workload. Support is offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through the availability of senior supervising social workers and managers. The provision of support through groups is presently under discussion as to how best to manage, given the geographic spread of foster carers.
- Each foster carer has an annual review; the first review is fully considered by the Fostering Panel.

### **13. Monitoring the Fostering Service**

The Fostering Service is monitored through provision of formal supervision of all staff and foster carers, the auditing of case files and supervision records, as well as day to day management of the service and support to staff and foster carers.

The Charity has a quality assurance section, which undertakes annual inspections and reports on outcomes for children and young people. The quality and effectiveness of the complaints procedures is also monitored and kept under review.

The Charity undertakes annual reporting of performance indicators based on the outcomes central to the Every Child Matters philosophy in England and Wales and plans to do the same for Getting It Right for Every Child in Scotland.

All carers, staff and panel members are provided with a copy of national care standards

The service is subject to inspection by the Care Commission with at least one annual inspection when the service is measured against the National Standards for foster care and family placement services which are based upon the principles of

**Dignity: privacy: choice: safety: realising potential: equality and diversity.**

### **14. The Review of statement of purpose**

The Statement of Purpose is reviewed on a regular basis, at least annually, to ensure information is updated.

### **15. Feedback**

Carers, children, young people, placing agencies and other involved professionals are invited to comment upon this statement of purpose or any other aspect of the service in writing or personally to:

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TACT  
Slateford House  
51 -53 Lanark Road  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1 TL

Tel: 0131 455 4488

Fax: 0131 455 4493

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