



Illuminance Monthly Newsletter



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Policies of the Month for 2023

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Escalation Policy	Unannounced Visit	National Minimum Standards	Supervision and Support policy
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Complaints Procedure	Money Matters	What happens if an allegation is made against me or my family?	Risk Assessments and Planning
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Contact Between the Child, their Family and Others	Values and Principles	Matching and Placements	Notifications of significant events

Thank you to all who attended the training sessions, meetings and support group in January. The training as well as the monthly foster carers meeting were all a success especially with the boost in attendance, we hope to see more people joining the sessions especially with the evening sessions for those who work. Please see the dates below for training sessions, meetings and support group for February.

Training Sessions For February

TSDS Training Session 1

08/02/2023 - 10:00am – 12:30pm

TSDS Training Session 2

20/02/2023 - 10:00am – 12:30pm

P.A.C.E and Secure Base Model Training

27/02/2023 - 10:00am – 1:00pm

Foster Carer Support Group – Thursday 9th February – 10:00 – 12:30

Please let us know if you would like to focus on a theme/topic for the support group. Hanna has asked for any suggestions or feedback that will help you get the most from the support group.

Monthly Foster Carer Meeting

Wednesday 15th February – 11:30 – 13:00

Monthly Foster Carer Meetings are mandatory for approved foster carers but carers currently in the assessment stage can also join, this will help you to stay informed especially if your panel date is coming up.

Carer's Corner

Introducing the Carer's Corner! A section in the newsletter for Carers to send in submissions and get involved in the newsletter. Please let us know if you would like to get involved!



Email or WhatsApp any submissions.



Ofsted Inspection

Thank you to all staff, carers and children at Illuminance! All of your hard work and dedication over this past year has contributed to our provisional rating of **good!** This is an organisational achievement. We are grateful to all who took the time to speak to the inspector and complete other tasks. We are currently awaiting the publication of the official Ofsted report.

Meet The Team: Kate Harper

My daughter and I moved to the UK from a sunny Durban in South Africa 3 years ago. I have always wanted to do something where I made a difference. I have previous nanny experience and I have also run a franchise restaurant in South Africa that focused on children. I am a Mom just like some of our wonderful Foster Carers and I love making a difference.

My role is to be a support to the Foster Carers. This support can come in many different forms, such as; taking a child out for an

activity, helping to educate a child who is awaiting a place at school, coaching and guiding a new Mum in our care, assisting with learning to do the admin around your foster care and lastly it could just be to lend an ear on a tough day or having someone to bounce off when trying to find a solution to help a child. I strongly believe that it takes a village to raise a child and I am so so blessed to be apart of the Illuminance community where we all want to make a difference!

National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services Regulations (2011)

The child's wishes and feelings and the views of those significant to them

- Children know that their views, wishes, and feelings are taken into account in all aspects of their care.
- They are helped to understand why it may not be possible to act upon their wishes in all cases, and they know how to obtain support and make a complaint.
- The views of others with an important relationship to the child are gathered and taken into account.

1

Promoting a positive identity, potential, and valuing diversity through individualised care

Children have a positive self-view, emotional resilience, and knowledge and understanding of their background.

2

Promoting positive behaviour and relationships

Children enjoy sound relationships with their foster family, interact positively with others, and behave appropriately.

3

Safeguarding Children

Children feel safe and are safe. Children understand how to protect themselves and are protected from significant harm, including neglect, abuse, and accidents.

4

Children missing from care

Children rarely go missing and if they do, they return quickly.

- Children who do go missing are protected as far as possible and responded to positively on their return.

5

Leisure activities

Children are able to enjoy their interests, develop confidence in their skills, and are supported and encouraged to engage in leisure activities.

6

Promoting educational attainment

The education and achievement of children is actively promoted as valuable in itself and as part of their preparation for adulthood. Children are supported to achieve their educational potential.

8

Promoting and supporting contact

Children have, where appropriate, constructive contact with their parents, grandparents, siblings, half-siblings, wider family, friends, and other people who play a significant role in their lives.

9

Providing a suitable physical environment for the foster child

Children live in foster homes which provide adequate space, to a suitable standard. The child enjoys access to a range of activities which promote their development.

10

Promoting good health and wellbeing

6

Children live in a healthy environment where their physical, emotional, and psychological health is promoted and where they are able to access the services to meet their health needs.

Promoting independence and moves to adulthood and leaving care

Children are prepared for, and supported into, adulthood so that they can reach their potential and achieve economic wellbeing.

12

Recruiting and assessing foster carers who can meet the needs of LAC

The fostering service recruits, assesses, and supports a range of foster carers to meet the needs of children they provide care for and is proactive in assessing current and future needs of children.

13

Fostering panels and the fostering service's decision-maker

The fostering panel and decision-maker make timely, quality, and appropriate recommendations/decisions in line with the overriding objective to promote the welfare of children in foster care.

14

Matching the child with a placement that meets their assessed needs

The responsible authority has information and support from the fostering service which it needs to facilitate an appropriate match between the carer and child.

- It needs to be capable of meeting the child's needs.
- The authority needs to be consistent with the wishes and feelings of the child, so maximising the likelihood of a stable placement.

15

Preparation for a placement

11

Children are welcomed into the foster home and leave the foster home in a planned and sensitive manner which makes them feel loved and valued.

- Children feel part of the family. They are not treated differently to the foster carer's own children living in the household. The child's needs are met, and they benefit from a stable placement.

Fitness to provide or manage the administration of a fostering service

The fostering service is provided and managed by those who are suitable to work with children and have the appropriate skills, experience, and qualifications to deliver an efficient and effective service.

17

Financial viability and changes affecting business continuity

The fostering service is financially sound.

- Where a service is to close or substantially change, there is proper planning, to make the transition for children, foster carers, and staff as smooth as possible.

18

Suitability to work with children

There is careful selection of staff, fostering households, volunteers, and the central list of persons considered suitable to be members of a fostering panel, and there is monitoring of such people to help prevent unsuitable people from having the opportunity to harm children.

19

Learning and development of foster carers

Foster carers receive the training and development they need to carry out their role effectively. A clear framework of training and development is in place, and this is used as the basis for assessing foster carers' performance and identifying their training and development needs.

20

Statement of purpose and children's guide

16

Children, their parents, foster carers, staff, and the responsible authority/placing authority are clear about the aims and objectives of the fostering service and what services and facilities it provides.

The fostering service's operation meets the aims and objectives in the Statement of Purpose.

Handling allegations and suspicions of harm

Allegations and suspicions of harm are handled in a way that provides effective protection and support for children and the person making the allegation, and at the same time, supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

22

Learning, development, and qualifications of staff

Children and foster carers receive a service from staff, volunteers, panel members, and decision-makers who have the competence to meet their needs.

23

Staff support and supervision

Staff and volunteers are supported and guided to fulfil their roles and provide a high-quality service to children.

24

Managing effectively and efficiently and monitoring the service

The fostering service is managed ethically, effectively, and efficiently, delivering a service which meets the needs of its users.

30

Supervision and support of foster carers

21

Foster carers receive the support and supervision they need in order to care properly for children placed with them.

Fitness of premises for use as fostering service

The premises and administrative systems are suitable to enable the service to meet the objectives of its Statement of Purpose.

27

Payment to carers

Payments to foster carers are fair and paid in a timely way. Foster carers are clear about the fostering service's payment structures and the payments due to them.

28

Notification of significant events

All significant events relating to the health and protection of children fostered by the service are notified by the registered person to the appropriate authorities.

29

Records

26

Records are clear, up-to-date, stored securely, and contribute to an understanding of the child's life.

Placement plan and review

Children are cared for in line with their Placement Plan/Short Break Care Plan.

- The fostering service takes action to chase up outstanding reviews or visits from the responsible authority, contributes to those reviews, and assists the child to contribute to their reviews.

31

Family and friends as foster carers

Foster carers of family and friends receive the support they require to meet the needs of children placed with them.