

Argyll and Bute Council ~ Fostering Service

Aims and Objectives

Statement of Purpose

Argyll and Bute Council's Fostering Service is managed by the Family Placement Team as part of the council's social work service for children and families. The Fostering Service exists to recruit, assess, train, support and supervise Foster Carers for children who require alternative family care for periods that may be on a planned short break basis, in an emergency or may be temporary or permanent care.

The Fostering Service is focused principally on the children who are looked after by foster carers; how we can work in partnership with foster carers and others to ensure children and young people are loved and supported to achieve their potential and feel a sense of belonging and connection to the people that matter most to them.

The vision of the Scottish Government is that children should be valued by ensuring that they are safe; achieving; active; nurtured; respected; responsible and included; these tenets provide a basis for the practice of Argyll and Bute's Fostering Service as a whole. Furthermore, the Fostering Service is committed to recognising the rights of all children to grow up in a loving family environment as stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) Act, Scotland, 2024.

The Fostering Service is committed to continuous improvement and best practice, in order to promote the most positive outcomes for children and young people.

Aims of the Fostering Service

- Provision of loving, secure and stable foster families providing opportunities for children and young people to grow, develop and realise their unique potential.
- Provision of a range of fostering resources to meet the various needs of children and young people who require fostering.
- Promotion of the protection and safe care of children and young people who require fostering.
- To ensure that Foster Carers and their families are motivated, trained, skilled and supported to meet the needs of children in their care.
- To respond promptly to recruitment enquiries by providing clear information about training, assessment, approval and support.
- To regard birth families fairly, openly and with respect when their children require the support of the Fostering Service.
- To promote the rights of children and young people to live together with their siblings when it is safe for them to do so, as promoted by the Scottish Government's #KeepThePromise.

Objectives of the Fostering Service

- To ensure that the service provided to children, Foster Carers, birth parents and families meets the legislative requirements and the principles of the Health and Social Care Standards for Fostering Services.
- To ensure preparation, training and assessment of Foster Carers is trauma-informed to develop their abilities leading to the best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- Provision of quality support and supervision with clear direction to the fostering workforce, offering opportunities for skills development.
- To consult on the quality of the service and use feedback to inform development.
- To promote the participation of children, young people, their families and foster families in service development.