



**Cornerstone**

Statement of Purpose:  
Post Adoption Support  
2023

## Introductions

This Statement of Purpose has been developed in accordance with appropriate legislation and guidance including, but not limited to: The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 and supporting statutory guidance and regulations; The Care Standards Act 2000, The Adoption and Children Act 2002, The Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 (amended 2011), The Children and Adoption Act 2006, The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and accompanying statutory guidance, The Children and Families Act 2014, National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. These form the basis of the regulatory framework for the provision of Post-Adoption Support services and provide the framework of the National Minimum Standards used by Ofsted to inspect all adoption services. Ofsted has responsibility for the regulation and inspection of Children's Social Care Services in England.

CornerstoneUK is the trading name of Cornerstone (North East) Adoption and Fostering Service, a Christian agency and a company limited by guarantee (number: 5663749). The company was incorporated on 29 December 2005 in England and Wales and, following registration with CSCI as an Independent Fostering Agency on Friday 29 March, began trading as Cornerstone on Monday 3 April 2006. There are no conditions of registration for the fostering agency

Cornerstone was registered as a Charity on 16 May 2006 (number: 1114213) and registered as a Post Adoption Support Agency on 19 June 2006. The trading office is in Doncaster.

The conditions of registration were that Cornerstone:

- may provide post adoption support services to children and adults; and
- may provide birth record counselling and intermediary services.

## Cornerstone's Core Values

- 1 **Unity** – We are Christians who love God and all people, and we work together as a faith community.
- 2 **Children** – We put vulnerable children at the centre of all we do to change their stories within the context of a loving family.
- 3 **Development** – We provide holistic support to children, carers and staff to reach their full potentials.
- 4 **Stewardship** – We strive to be good stewards of God's gifts in our lives and God's creation by using our resources in a wise and ecologically friendly way.
- 5 **Reverence** – We listen and communicate with respect and care.
- 6 **Integrity** – We work diligently and from our hearts out of love for God to demonstrate our life in Christ throughout our personal lives and the entire organisation.

## Contact Details

Currently the registered office is: Cornerstone

GF2, Oxford House  
Sixth Avenue  
Auckley  
DONCASTER  
DN9 3GG  
Tel: 0191 5656423

Email: [info@cornerstoneuk.org](mailto:info@cornerstoneuk.org)

## Registration Authorities

Cornerstone is registered with Ofsted as a Post Adoption Support Agency (Registration: SC066944).

All enquiries should be made to:

### Ofsted

National Business Unit  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Email: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

**Cornerstone's Post Adoption Support Service was rated as a GOOD service by Ofsted in February 2023**

## Aims

1. To ensure that any child or young person placed with one of our foster carers, and who has subsequently been adopted by them, is cared for kindly and respectfully in a safe nurturing environment by highly skilled and informed adults. This is to promote the best possible outcomes for the child/young person and empower, equip and support them in fulfilling their life's opportunities, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation or ability.
2. To place the greatest importance on the safety and protection of children and young people, complying with all legal and regulatory requirements and the National Minimum Standards for Adoption.
3. Where it is in the best interests of the children, Cornerstone welcomes adoption and supports foster carers and the children through the process. Cornerstone will provide post adoption support in these situations as agreed with the Local Authority. In response to the demand from carers and parents, Cornerstone has developed post adoption support services, which offers ongoing personalised support to all adopters and children that can extend throughout the lifespan of the children into adulthood.

## Principles

1. All children have a right to experience positive family life and values, which encourage a sense of belonging and identity that enables them to move successfully into adulthood. They have a right to be safe and to experience a home life where their personal, physical, spiritual, emotional, educational and psychological needs are fully met.
2. Respect and recognition are given to the importance of all aspects of equality and diversity including ethnic origin, cultural background, religion and language, gender and sexual orientation of the child, their families, and their adopters. Consideration is given to any disability of the child adopted, so that individual needs are met.
3. Upon adoption the child is regarded as a full member of his or her family, who can meet their needs throughout childhood and beyond. Every child is listened to, has their wishes and feelings taken into account, to enjoy childhood, and to benefit from education and a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills and talents.
4. Each individual family is free to function as is natural to them but they have to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with legislation and Cornerstone principles.

### Unity – Children – Development – Stewardship – Reverence - Integrity

5. Cornerstone is a Christian agency and therefore all families are aware of, and are in agreement with, the ethos and values of the organisation. We respect the right of every child or young person to follow the faith of their adoptive family, any other, or no faith.
6. Cornerstone believes in continuous development. Regular evaluations of training, as well as consultations with adopters and staff, are used as a tool to look at future training and development needs.
7. Children are encouraged to give their views regularly. Although it is not always possible to act upon children's wishes, children always know they have been taken seriously and the reasons for their views not being actioned are given and explained in a way that they can understand.
8. Children have a right to independent advice and support. The Children's Guide, which is given to every child, contains details of how a child can obtain help from someone independent whom they can contact directly and in private.
9. The child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of their care. In consultation with their parents, we monitor the family's needs through their 'Assessment of Need' to ensure that the correct support is given to enable the child to reach his or her full potential.
10. Each child is:
  - encouraged and supported where appropriate in maintaining constructive direct or indirect contact with birth family, and everyone who has played a significant part in their life. Together with Life Story work, contact helps to promote a child's identity;
  - able to enjoy a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills and talents;
  - encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour and actions in a way that is appropriate to their age and ability;
  - helped to develop the skills needed to make and sustain friendships;
  - supported if they encounter discrimination or bullying; and
  - encouraged to exercise choice and gradually be prepared to become independent, in accordance with their ability, in their journey into adulthood.
11. The skills, knowledge, and services of a wide range of professional and lay people are drawn upon as needed and Cornerstone ensures that families are adequately resourced and equipped in their task.

### **Model of Care**

1. The needs of each individual child or young person are fulfilled within stable and supportive families who, in turn, are supported by Cornerstone.
2. Many of the young people continue to benefit from therapy advocated for by Cornerstone.
3. Each young person has their own service specific 'Children and Young Person's Guide'. They are encouraged to take part in consultations with the agency in ways that reflect their age and ability level. We also give each child a fun and functional 3-Dimensional aid in the form of a Rubik's Cube, which has all the contact details of Cornerstone. Questionnaires are circulated to young people and to their parents to ascertain their views, but we recognise that in relation to post adoption, this is entirely voluntary. We adopt a range of methods to seek consultation with the children and young people regarding their wishes – be that verbal, written or through electronic means.
4. Continuity and consistency of training has a high priority, as a means of supporting the parents and staff, in order to enable them to meet the needs of the young people. Whilst recognising that this is not a requirement for adoptive parents, it is promoted and encouraged.

5. We place great importance on safeguarding within Cornerstone. Our supervision and support of parents reflects this priority and monitoring their practice in this area. Adopted children have their adoptive identity safeguarded and the right to decide whether to be involved in contact or communication with birth family members that is dependent on their age and abilities.
6. Adoption is an evolving life-long process for all those involved. The fundamental issues raised by adoption may reverberate and resurface at different times and stages throughout an individual's life. Whether Cornerstone has a formal adoption support package or not, the agency has and will always provide help and support to Cornerstone adopted children and their parents.
7. Adopted people should have access to information and services to enable them to address adoption related matters throughout their life and Cornerstone facilitates this process.

### **Assessment of Needs**

1. Cornerstone has a duty to ensure that all post adoption support services provided are appropriate to each person involved and in line with the Assessment of Needs.
2. Families will know what specific services will be provided, based on this assessment which is reviewed annually.
3. Where services cannot be provided 'in house' the adoptive family will be referred to another agency/service which can meet the identified need.
4. Cornerstone has been successful in assisting families, including birth children, as appropriate, to access therapeutic services funded by the Adoption Support Fund and will continue to do so.

### **Services**

Cornerstone provides the following post adoption services:

1. Formal and informal family support is provided by a qualified social worker from Cornerstone in addition to the placing Local Authority.
2. The frequency of support visits varies as adopters individually decide on the type and frequency of the support, they would find most helpful.
3. All adopters have access to 24-hour emergency cover 365 days of the year from Cornerstone Social Workers.
4. Ongoing training is offered by Cornerstone to all adopters through the planning and delivery of tailored packages.
5. Support in relation to contact, assisting adopters to comply with agreed arrangements and helping them to manage any difficult emotional or other issues they may have because of contact, is provided. In so doing, full account is taken of the child's age and level of understanding, and the individual capacities of all other parties.
6. Cornerstone maintains records on children previously fostered and subsequently adopted in line with General Data Protection Regulation 2018. We are aware that, over time, professional knowledge and case records might not be readily available and on this basis, Cornerstone will continue to keep records to assist adopted adults in potential search and reunion requests in accordance with legislation.
7. Birth records counselling will be accessed for all young people adopted by previous Cornerstone foster carers to help them understand the possible effects on them and their family of the outcome of their search.

- 8. Information about the Adoption Contact Register and how to register a wish for contact or no contact; and about absolute and qualified vetoes and the potential benefits and disadvantages of registering a veto can be provided on request.

### Compliments, Comments and Complaints

We want everyone to be satisfied with our service, but if anyone is feeling dissatisfied with any aspect of Cornerstone, attempts are made as soon as possible to resolve the issue in an informal way. Cornerstone also has a clearly defined Complaints process that is accessible to children and young people and their families, staff, Local Authorities and other independent persons. Complaints are treated respectfully, seriously and promptly, and resolution is sought as early in the process as possible.

The full Complaints Policy is available from Cornerstone on request.

### Staff 2023

Cornerstone recruitment is in accordance with regulatory requirements. All staff and volunteers who work for Cornerstone hold a range of appropriately recognised qualifications, dependent on their role, and all social work staff are registered with Social Work England. They have management, training, administrative and technical experience to ensure that the needs of Cornerstone are met.

All staff receive regular supervision, support, appraisals and training. Pre-employment checks are undertaken, and all references are followed up. Enhanced DBS checks are obtained.

The Statement of Purpose is reviewed on a regular basis.

Please see organisational chart for staff involved within Cornerstone.

**Cornerstone Organisation Chart**



