



family futures CIC
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What is Family Futures?



A Community Interest Company that is a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise putting children and parents before profit!

Family Futures CIC, a community interest company registered in England and Wales with registered company number 08423617, whose registered office address is Wellesley House, Duke of Wellington Avenue, Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SS.

www.familyfutures.co.uk

A Guide for Young People who are Fostered

Company registration n° 8423617



Family Futures is an Agency that helps children who are fostered or adopted and their families.

Children come into foster care for many reasons and sometimes it is confusing as to what this means.

Some children are fostered only for a short time before they move into a more permanent 'forever' family which can be either another foster home or an adoptive family.

At Family Futures we know that it is hard and sometimes sad and scary living in foster care, we know that children and young people often have lots of questions and things that they're not clear about.

The staff at Family Futures are here to help you understand what it means to be in foster care and to help you to share your questions and feelings with us and with your foster parents.

We will be here to help you not just now as you move into your new family but for a long time afterwards so that you and your foster parents always have someone outside of the family that you can talk to if you have worries.

We also know that now and in the future you may have lots of questions you want to ask us or your adoptive parents.

The adults at Family Futures are here to help you and your foster parents answer these questions.

How will we do this?

Here at Family Futures we will talk to you and find out what you think and what you want to say. We will also talk to your foster parents, brothers and sisters. During your time at Family Futures we will use drawing, painting, stories, music, drama and other art forms. Sometimes we will make contact with your birth family, if you or your foster parents think this might be helpful.

Do you want to do this?

We know that it is not easy and that it is hard to trust people; but we also know that young people, who have had difficult starts in life, are survivors. They are strong and deep down want things to be better.

The adults at Family Futures will:

- Keep you safe
- Will listen to any worries or fears you may have
- Help you talk to your foster parents
- Help you understand what's happened to you in the past
- Help you feel good about yourself
- Help you make good choices and have fun

At Family Futures we are not Children's Services. We don't take children away from their foster parents.

All children have rights. If you feel you are not being listened to and you want to talk to somebody about how you are feeling, or if you can't talk to your parents, your teacher or anyone at Family Futures you can ask NYAS to help you.

Web: www.nyas.net/helpline
Free Phone: 0808 808 1001
Email: help@nyas.net

We try to do our best but sometimes we get it wrong. If you are unhappy about anything that has been said to you or has happened to you when you have been at Family Futures, you have the right to complain.

How can I complain?

You can complain by talking to or writing to any of the following people:

- Your Parents/Carers
- Your Social Worker
- Your Therapist at Family Futures
- Your Children's Advocate (if you are still on a Care Order to a Local Authority)
- Your Independent Reviewing Officer
- Family Futures' Independent Person, Roger Weissman. Roger is experienced in the fields of fostering and adoption and is independent of Family Futures. His job is to make sure children and families get a good service from Family Futures.

If a complaint is made, all these people will take it seriously and investigate, and will try to sort things out in a friendly way.

How do I contact these people?

Family Futures
Email: contact@familyfutures.co.uk
Tel: 020 7354 4161
Web: www.familyfutures.co.uk

Roger Weissman
Tel: 07957 657721
Email: roger.weissman@lineone.net

Then what happens next?

Whoever you have approached will try and sort out the problem with you and the person concerned as quickly and fairly as possible. If you are still not happy, then you should tell the person you originally complained to that you are not happy and they will start a detailed investigation into your complaint. How this will be done will be explained to you.

Alternatively you can contact Ofsted's Children Rights Director. OFSTED register and inspect us and are there to protect you.

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
Tel 0300 123 1231

Or you can contact the Children's Rights Director for England
Free Phone: 0800 528 0731
advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Your Social Worker's contact details:
Write their name and number here

Your Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO) contact details:
Write their name and number here

WHERE IS MY BIRTH FAMILY NOW?
ARE THEY OK? CAN I SEE THEM?
WHY DID I LEAVE THEM? WAS IT MY FAULT?
AM I REALLY GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER?
AM I MAD? AM I BAD? AM I STUPID?
AM I SAFE?
WHAT SORT OF GROWN UP WILL I BE?