

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Carolina
HOUSE TRUST

Carolina House Trust

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Quality services meeting the needs of young people

Find out more online at www.carolinahoustrust.org.uk



Established in 1815
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC016289

Foster Care Services

Carolina House Trust is the oldest children's charity in Scotland. Set up as an Orphanage in Dundee in 1815 following the sinking of a ferry boat in the Tay, one of its main focuses now is on providing a high standard of foster care to young people in keeping with the demands of local authorities.

Although based in the East of Scotland we have offered placements to local authorities from all over Scotland.

For Carolina House Trust, the emphasis is on caring for children and young people, many of whom have multiple social and emotional problems that make it difficult for them to remain at home. Some show their unhappiness in acting out behaviour that might bring them to the attention of the police and children's panel; others have mental health problems or education based issues. A great many of them are likely to remain in care until young adulthood.



Carolina House Trust offers a number of different types of family based care options. These foster care placements are supported within a team approach. This would involve clear assessment of the support needs and risks of the placement and what personnel are required to encourage positive outcomes. Carolina House Trust is not just a fostering agency and has access to a number of other professionals and resource workers with a range of skills. These skills can be used to enhance a foster placement for young people with very complex needs. In most cases the Carolina House Trust would build this into the price of a placement at the initial contract stage.

- **Long Term/Permanent Placements**

Long term planned placements that would normally be over 2 years duration. These placements can be extensions of short term placements or specifically planned with matching considerations where it is assessed that a young person will not return home and the LAAC process has agreed to this plan.

Permanent placements are where the child will not return home and foster care is seen as an alternative to adoption for an older child. These placements normally move through a planning and matching process before being ratified more formally at a Permanence Panel.

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- **Short Term Placements**

Short term placements are made for a variety of reasons and are planned not to be for very long periods. These may be for assessment or until a family crisis has been addressed.

- **Emergency Placements**

Emergency placements are made usually on the day the request has been received or within 24 hours of referral. If the child remains in placement then the placement will become categorised as one of the other placement types.

- **Singleton Placements**

These are situations where a young person should be in a placement where there are no other foster children or young people. This is where it has been assessed that the young person's needs are such that they require constant supervision and support.

- **Mother and Child Placements**

There is a developing need for mother and baby placements and this is being considered as another service option within Carolina House Trust. This has required identifying and training specific carers who have the accommodation and personal resources to help these young women.

- **Short Break Placements**

Although short break carers are a resource for full time carers to have a rest from the fostering task we have a pool of dedicated short break carers who can provide short breaks on a contracted basis. This can be for a variety of support needs including family and kinship carers and delivered in a number of ways. This could be in one of our units, with foster carers or by using one of our peripatetic carers. Short breaks can be spot purchased in a crisis or as needed on a case by case basis.

In all of these placement options Carolina House Trust would, with the referring agency, complete an initial risk assessment which would be constantly updated during the placement. This would inform the need for support and how this should be implemented in any given set of circumstances. We recognise this will be at differing levels for each placement and would use the assessment to tailor-make support packages to address individual needs.

This being the case we would urge referring agencies to approach Carolina House Trust with a view to discussing how a particular young person's needs could be met at any point of their journey into and through care.