



Version 4 – August 2014

**Young Person's Guide**

**Kasper Fostering**



# Welcome to Kasper Fostering

This booklet is split into four sections

- a. Being looked after
- b. Being with Kasper fostering
- c. What to do if you have a complaint or are being bullied
- d. A special section for you to personalise

# Kasper Fostering



Hi,

I'm Mac and I started Kasper Fostering in 1997 because I wanted to ensure that young people who could not live with their birth family still had the opportunity to live with people who could take care of them and give them the best chance of preparing for being adults.

I called the company Kasper after a young man in Austria who was fostered by a whole village.

The first thing I want to acknowledge is that I realise you are probably feeling rather strange and perhaps angry right now. I hope this booklet helps you and if you have any questions after reading it, please feel free to ask questions of your carer or their social worker.

Kasper does have a 'Statement of Purpose' which you may have a copy of, or you can find it on our website [www.kasperfostering.org](http://www.kasperfostering.org)

## Mission Statement



“The purpose of Kasper is to empower children and young people to develop their individual potential by providing constant and effective care”.

We believe

- \* you have the right to achieve all you can
- \* you should be looked after by adults who are caring, show respect and listen
- \* our staff and foster parents must understand the importance of your birth family, ethnicity, culture and religion.

We aim to provide you with the best possible foster home where you can feel safe and secure, learn about yourself and be helped to grow into confident and happy adults.

You are at the heart of everything we do at Kasper. We will always try to make sure that your needs and wishes are heard. All our foster carers are trained and experienced and will provide you with a safe, caring, healthy home to live in. We work to very high standards set by the government.

We work hard to make sure you have the right schooling and all your health needs are met. We can, if needed, offer you therapy, counselling, or encouragement in a certain skill or activity from our Specialist Independent Team.

## This is the staff team at the Whitstable Office: -



Lin Redman  
Agency Manager



Jo Dennis  
Service Development



Diane Manning  
Finance Manager



Jayne Robinson  
Practice Supervisor



Jacqui Nicholls  
Social Worker



Sharn Bowley  
Placements Officer



Leanne Sands  
Social Worker



Amy Ansell  
Administration Manager



Hayley Goodfellow  
Admin Assistant



Donna Keene  
Admin Assistant



Di Jeffers  
Finance Assistant

📍 Whitstable Office Address - 79 Nelson Rd, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DX

☎ Tel - 01227 275985; 🕒 OOH - 07956 870863

✉ Email - [mail@kasperfostering.org](mailto:mail@kasperfostering.org)

## This is the staff team at the Bromley Office: -



Jill Eyre  
Social Worker



Rukhshanda Jabeen  
Social Worker



Lynne McCarthy  
Admin Assistant

### Bromley Office Address

Clarendon House, Room 5, 21/23 Elmfield Road

Bromley, Kent, BR1 1LT

 Tel: 0208 315 6756

 OOH: 07944 722405

 Email – [bromleymail@kasperfostering.org](mailto:bromleymail@kasperfostering.org)

## Being Looked After

There are many reasons why young people need to live with foster carers. You will have a social worker from the local authority whose job it is to ensure your welfare is paramount. This social worker should ensure that you understand your own circumstances and the legal order under which you are being looked after. You should also be aware of the 'Care Plan' which considers your future.

Every 6 months there will be a review meeting which looks at your general progress and whether your Care Plan is still appropriate. This meeting will consider health and education, issues around your birth family, finances and preparation for leaving care when you are older and anything that is important to you. Your voice will be heard even if you elect not to attend a review as you will be invited to put any views in writing.

The review meeting is chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), and you can contact this person if something happens which you need to discuss between review meetings.

It can seem as though too many people know your personal business, but you should be reassured that all the adults involved have only one objective – your wellbeing.

## Personal information

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone No.</b>	
<b>Name of Foster Carers:</b>	
<b>Foster Carers Mobile No.</b>	
<b>Name of LA Social Worker:</b>	
<b>Social Worker's Tel No.</b>	
<b>Name of Advocate:</b>	
<b>Name of IRO:</b>	
<b>Other Important People:</b>	

# My Family

Mum's name:	
Mum's birthday:	
Dad's name:	
Dad's birthday:	
Brother or Sisters name:	
Birthday:	
Brother or Sisters name:	
Birthday:	
Brother or Sister's name:	
Birthday	

You can write the names and birthdays of other family members here:

Grandparents:	
Aunties & Uncles:	
Cousins	

# My Friends

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone No.	
Email Address:	
Birthday:	

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone No.	
Email Address:	
Birthday:	

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone No.	
Email Address:	
Birthday:	

## Living with Kasper Foster Carers

Your carer will make sure your day-to-day needs are being met and take time to listen to you. Your opinion may not be agreed with, but it will always be heard and respected.

A social worker from Kasper will be visiting your carer frequently and your carer will also attend regular training sessions.

If you are unhappy with your care, you can talk to a member of Kasper staff or an independent person. Details of how to do this are in a later section of this booklet.

Kasper offers an Out of Hours service and there will always be someone to talk to.

We want your carer to look after you as a member of their family. They will:-



Make sure you are healthy



Make sure you are safe



Help you at school or at work and to make the most of any good opportunities that may come your way



Make sure you have the opportunity to make friends



Make sure you can stay in touch with people who are important to you, including your family



Make sure you are listened to



Make sure there is someone available to talk to if you feel unable to discuss something with your carer or social worker



Make sure money is saved for when you are no longer looked after



Make sure you have all the skills you need to be able to look after yourself in the future.

Like everyone else, foster carers will have rules about how they treat people in the family. They will respect you, and expect you to respect them and their rules. You will agree things like bedtime, diet, clothes and pocket money with your carers and social worker. The foster carer will also get involved with your school and help you apply for benefits and further education places.

Foster carers know it takes time to feel part of a family and will talk to you generally about anxieties you might have about the past, present and future. However, it is your own social worker who sets the boundaries on things like contact with parents. All day-to-day decisions about seeing friends, school trips and medical consent can be agreed by your foster carer if your social worker, or parents, say that they can (this is called Delegated Authority).

## What to do if you are unhappy or have a complaint

If you are unhappy or wish to complain you can talk to your foster carer or your social worker or ask to see someone you know from Kasper. However, this is not always comfortable so at Kasper we have a system whereby anyone living with a Kasper foster carer may request a visit from an independent person called Viv Brown. In this booklet (at the back) is a help card which either you or your foster carer can send to Viv, who will then arrange to meet with you so you can talk to her.

All young people can also ask for an advocate if unhappy with social services. At Kasper we keep a list of these advocates so you can ask anytime for the details by ringing head office 01227 275985.

You can also email our Complaints Receiving Officer (CRO) Viv Brown directly to advise her of any complaint you have or make arrangements for her to visit you.

Viv Brown's email address is – [pathwayskent@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pathwayskent@blueyonder.co.uk)

This is Viv





## What to do if you are being Bullied

No-one likes a bully and no-one likes being bullied. Bullying can be name calling, being hurt and having your things taken.

If you feel that you are being bullied, the first person to tell is your foster carer. It is their job to support you and help you deal with tough times. You could also tell your teacher or your own social worker.

There are people who can help you.

Kasper has its own Bullying Policy which you can have a copy of if you would like. The main principles of this policy are that: -

- \* Everyone has the right to live, work and play free from fear, harassment, intimidation and violence.
- \* Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and to have their individual qualities and contributions recognised and valued.
- \* Bullying in any form is not acceptable and should not be condoned.
- \* Everyone has a responsibility to work together to stop bullying – parents, carers, staff, teachers and children and young people.

The carers and staff at Kasper want to make sure you know what to do if you are being bullied and will help you. You can contact Viv Brown if you would like to talk to her about it.

## Useful Information

Here are some groups and organisations that you can talk to if you need help about any part of being in care. Most of these numbers are free to call but you have to pay to call some of them. You'll see we have told you which ones are free of charge.

### ChildLine (calls are free)

Website: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Helpline: 0800 1111

### Coram Voice (calls are free)

Website: [www.vcc-uk.org](http://www.vcc-uk.org)

Telephone: 0808 800 5792

Helpline Open: Mon–Fri 9.30am-6pm

### The Office of the Children's Commissioner

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Website: [www.rights4me.org](http://www.rights4me.org)

Telephone: 0800 528 0731

## Edward Timpson MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Website: [www.edwardtimpson.com](http://www.edwardtimpson.com)

### NSPCC (calls are free)

Website: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Helpline: 24 hrs 0808 800 5000

### Children's Legal Centre

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

Telephone: 08088 020 008

Helpline Open: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm

### Action for Children

Website: [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 2112

Helpline Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Catch22

National Care Advisory Service (NCAS)

Website: [ncas.leavingcare.org](https://ncas.leavingcare.org)

Telephone: 020 7336 4824

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills  
(OFSTED)

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 1231

Helpline Open: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

# Dictionary

'Social Services'	The Government Department that your Social Worker works for.
'Social Worker'	The person whose job it is to make plans for you when you are looked after.
'Supervising Social Worker'	The person whose job it is to help your foster carer look after you.
'Looked After'	When you can't live in your own family and the Social Worker has to find a place for you to stay.
'Care Plan'	The Plan your Social Worker will complete about what is going to happen in the future for you.
'Foster Family'	A family specially chosen for you to live with when you are not living at home.
'School' or 'College' or 'University'	Where you go to learn and get an education.
'Placement'	Another name for the place in which you will be living.
'Child Care Review'	A meeting where a small number of people talk about what is best for your future.
'Complaints Receiving Officer' (CRO)	A person you can speak to if you are unhappy about the plans for you or anything else.

<b>'Advocate'</b>	An independent person you can speak to if you have any worries or concerns that you don't want to discuss with Social Services or Kasper.
<b>'Independent Reviewing Officer' (IRO)</b>	The person who will chair your Child Care Review.
<b>Independent Visitor</b>	A person who will visit you, talk to you and take you out, like a mentor.

Viv Brown (CRO)

51 Robin Hood Lane

Walderslade

Chatham

Kent ME5 9NR

# Kasper 'Help' Card

My Name is .....

Can someone please come to see me.



# Kasper Fostering

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