

Kent Foster Care Association

Constitution

1. The name of the Association shall be The Kent Foster Care Association hereinafter to be referred to as the Association.

For the purpose of this constitution

the term foster carer will apply to any foster carers who are approved by Kent County Council to foster children and young people on their behalf

2. The Association is established to advance the education of the public within the County of Kent (" the area of benefit ") in matters relating to children and young people in the care of the local authority, to promote professionalism of foster carers , to enable and encourage communications in all aspects of foster care and to provide support to foster carers.

In furtherance to the above but not otherwise :

to co-operate and assist with the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations in the advancement of the above objects

to raise funds

to hold open forums

to engage in educational and promotional activities

3. The Association shall be non party political and non sectarian

4. The membership of the Association shall be open to all KCC registered foster carers and to those persons providing supported lodgings to young people in public care, who agree to comply with any rules or regulations determined by the Association.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEMBERS NAMES AND ADDRESSES SHALL BE EXCLUSIVE TO THE 3 MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ONLY.

ANY ALLEGED BREACH OF THIS CONFIDENTIALITY WILL RESULT IN A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION BEING CALLED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE REPORT.

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a) Elections will be held annually for the Executive Offices of

Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer

b) The Executive Officers will be KCC registered foster carers.

c) There shall be 1 vote per member, the execution of voting powers to be determined from time to time by the Association.

d) Each of the four KCC geographic areas are able to nominate a maximum of three representatives to the KFCA Committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee' which shall be under the management of the elected officers.
The Executive Committee shall have the power to invite additional persons having special knowledge or experience onto the committee. Such invited persons shall have no voting rights.

e) The Committee shall have the power to set up sub committees and prescribe their function provided that all actions and proceedings are fully and promptly reported to the Committee.

f) Approval for financial spending can only be made by a minimum of 2 elected members of the committee.

6. The quorum for any committee or sub committee shall be half of the whole number of the committee or sub committee. 10 members of the Association shall constitute a quorum at any annual general meeting of the Association.

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a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in February of each year or as soon afterwards as is reasonably practicable, at which shall be elected Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Officers may stand for annual re-election but shall retire after 5 years in office, but may be re-eligible for re-election after a break of 12 months.

b) Notice of this meeting, together with an agenda and motions submitted to be circulated to all members at least 14 days in advance.

8. A Special General Meeting shall be convened at the request, in writing, to the Association Secretary, of 10 members stating the purpose for which it is summoned. Such a meeting shall be held within 6 weeks of the request. Agenda and motions to be submitted to be circulated as in clause 7 b).

9. No alteration or amendment may be made except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose. Notice of such alteration must be received by the Secretary, in writing, at least 21 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called as in clause 7 b).

10. No alteration or amendment shall be made to the Constitution that will cause the Association to cease to be a charity in law.

11. The Association shall invite any official of any statutory or voluntary authority to attend its meetings as an observer or advisor but without power to vote.

12a) The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all income and expenditure and shall submit accounts, duly audited when necessary, to the Annual General Meeting.

b) The Associations financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March.

c) 2 Honorary Auditors for the said accounts to be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting providing the Gross Expenditure for the financial year exceeds £10,000. These Auditors may not hold office in the Association.

13. The banking account of the Association shall be in the name of The Kent Foster Care Association. Withdrawals may be made on the signature of any 2 of the following:

Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer

14. The funds of the Association will be applied solely to the development of the stated aims. In the event of the Association being dissolved, the remaining funds shall be devoted to objects similar to those of the Association.

15. The Association may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-third majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Association of which at least 21 clear days' notice shall be sent to members of the Association.

16. Any assets remaining on dissolution of the Association, after satisfying any debts and liabilities, shall not be distributed among the members of the Association, but will be given to such other charity or charities established for similar charitable purposes as the Association shall decide. Such dissolution may only take place following a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

17. Any matter not dealt with in the Constitution shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision shall be deemed final.