

# Red Kite Fostering

The Old Surgery, The Meads, Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3DQ

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this independent fostering agency**

Red Kite Fostering is a private limited company based in Herefordshire. The fostering agency provides a range of fostering placements, including long-term, short-term, emergency and respite placements.

The agency provides foster placements in England and Wales. At the time of the visit, the agency had five fostering households in England and was providing placements for six children.

The registered manager registered with Ofsted on 25 November 2020. She holds a level 5 qualification in management.

**Inspection date: 23 November 2021**

**Date of previous inspection: 9 August 2021**

## **This monitoring visit**

Ofsted conducted a full inspection of this independent fostering agency between 9 and 13 August 2021. The inspection found significant shortfalls across all areas of agency operations. As a result, the fostering agency was judged to be inadequate. Ofsted issued three compliance notices under regulation 8, regulation 11 and regulation 20.

A monitoring visit was carried out on 28 September 2021 to review the action that the provider had taken to meet the three compliance notices. Inspectors found that sufficient action had been taken for two of the compliance notices, under regulation 8 and regulation 11, to be considered met. However, managers still did not demonstrate sufficient oversight of the safe recruitment of staff. Because of this, the compliance notice under regulation 20 was not considered met. This notice was issued again. In addition, ongoing shortfalls in the safeguarding of children remained. As a result of this, Ofsted raised a compliance notice under regulation 12.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the action taken by the provider to meet the two compliance notices raised at the September visit.

Inspectors found that sufficient action had been taken for the compliance notice issued under regulation 12 to be considered met. Managers have ensured that all staff have received training regarding the management of allegations. Staff have put this learning into practice, demonstrating greater oversight of foster carers' records and reporting any concerns that arise. These improvements prioritise children's safety.

Managers have ensured that all staff involved in the recruitment of staff have received training. This has gone some way to strengthening safe recruitment procedures in the agency. However, staff told inspectors that the checks undertaken do not include verifying the reasons that staff have left previous roles with children or vulnerable adults. This omission means that the compliance notice issued under regulation 20 is not considered met. However, Ofsted is satisfied that the provider has made progress in this area. As a result, it is not considered proportionate to issue a further compliance notice under this regulation. A requirement has been raised.

Five requirements restated at the last monitoring visit were not reviewed during this visit. These will be considered at the next inspection.

## What does the independent fostering agency need to do to improve?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the national minimum standards. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The registered provider and the registered manager must, having regard to—</p> <p>the size of the fostering agency, its statement of purpose, and the numbers and needs of the children placed by the fostering agency, and</p> <p>the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children placed by the fostering agency,</p> <p>carry on or manage the fostering agency (as the case may be) with sufficient care, competence and skill. (Regulation 8 (1)(a)(b))</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that management systems for monitoring and review of the service are effective and reporting requirements are met.</p>	30 January 2022
<p>The fostering service provider must provide foster parents with such training, advice, information and support, including support outside office hours, as appears necessary in the interests of children placed with them. (Regulation 17 (1))</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that the fostering service is clear about the assessment and training requirements for foster carers who are approved to care for parent and child placements.</p>	30 January 2022
<p>The fostering service provider must not—</p>	30 January 2022

<p>employ a person to work for the purposes of the fostering service unless that person is fit to do so, or</p> <p>allow a person to whom paragraph (2) applies, to work for the purposes of the fostering service unless that person is fit to do so.</p> <p>This paragraph applies to any person who is employed, other than by the fostering service provider, in a position in which that person may in the course of their duties have regular contact with children placed by the fostering service.</p> <p>For the purposes of paragraph (1), a person is not fit to work for the purposes of a fostering service unless that person—</p> <p>is of integrity and good character,</p> <p>has the qualifications, skills and experience necessary for the work they are to perform,</p> <p>is physically and mentally fit for the work they are to perform,</p> <p>and full and satisfactory information is available in relation to that person in respect of each of the matters specified in Schedule 1. (Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that all staff who are employed by the agency are subject to the required recruitment checks.</p>	
<p>The fostering service provider must ensure that all persons employed by them—</p> <p>receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal. (Regulation 21 (4)(a))</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that the registered manager receives supervision from a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner.</p>	<p>30 January 2022</p>

<p>The functions of the fostering panel in respect of cases referred to it by the fostering service provider are—</p> <p>to consider each application for approval and to recommend whether or not a person is suitable to be a foster parent, where it recommends approval of an application, to recommend any terms on which the approval is to be given.</p> <p>In considering what recommendation to make under paragraph (1), the fostering panel—</p> <p>must consider and take into account all of the information passed to it in accordance with regulation 26, 27 or 28 (as the case may be),</p> <p>may request the fostering service provider to obtain any other relevant information or to provide such other assistance as the fostering panel considers necessary, and</p> <p>may obtain such legal advice or medical advice it considers necessary.</p> <p>The fostering service provider must obtain such information as the fostering panel considers necessary and send that information to the panel, and provide such other assistance as the fostering panel may request, so far as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>The fostering panel must also—</p> <p>oversee the conduct of assessments carried out by the fostering service provider, and</p> <p>give advice, and make recommendations, on such other matters or cases as the fostering service provider may refer to it.</p> <p>In this regulation “recommend” means recommend to the fostering service provider. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(b)(c) (5))</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p>	<p>30 January 2022</p>
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<p>This particularly refers to the panel demonstrating how its members have been assured that applicants demonstrate the required skills for the approval terms that are being sought.</p> <p>This particularly refers to panel identifying to the fostering service where this information is not clearly demonstrated, and to requesting that this information be made available to panel members before a recommendation is made.</p>	
<p>If any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 7 takes place in relation to a fostering agency, the registered person must without delay notify the persons or bodies indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 36 (1))</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that Ofsted is notified of any Schedule 7 matters, including allegations made against foster carers.</p>	30 January 2022

## Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the independent fostering agency since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

## **Independent fostering agency details**

**Unique reference number:** SC417504

**Registered provider:** Red Kite Fostering Limited

**Registered provider address:** Rhos House, Old Radnor, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2RP

**Responsible individual:** Carole Barnes

**Registered manager:** Amelia Benson

**Telephone number:** 01544 231657

**Email address:** [ameliabenson@red\\_kite\\_fostering.co.uk](mailto:ameliabenson@red_kite_fostering.co.uk)

## **Inspectors**

Tracey Coglan Greig, Social Care Inspector  
Louise Battersby, Social Care Inspector

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