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Cornerstone

Adoption and Fostering Service

Because Foundations Matter



JOB VACANCY PACK

FOSTERING PANEL MEMBERS



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[cornerstoneUKfostering](https://www.facebook.com/cornerstoneUKfostering)



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About Cornerstone

Cornerstone is an Independent Fostering and Post-Adoption Support Agency operating in England from Leicester up to Newcastle.

We are also expanding into Scotland where we operate as Foundations Matter.

We are the only Christian evangelical Fostering Agency in the UK. From our staff to our carers, volunteers and trustees, everyone in Cornerstone is motivated by their faith.

Our Core Values

Unity – We are Christians who love God and all people, and we work together as a faith community.

Children – We put vulnerable children at the centre of all we do to change their stories within the context of a loving family.

Development – We provide holistic support to children, carers and staff to reach their full potentials.

Stewardship – We strive to be good stewards of God's gifts in our lives and God's creation by using our resources in a wise and ecologically friendly way.

Reverence – We listen and communicate with respect and care.

Integrity – We work diligently and from our hearts out of love for God to demonstrate our life in Christ throughout our personal lives and the entire organisation.



Why choose Cornerstone?

Dedicated, supportive, Christian staff, social workers and trustees who are motivated by their faith and who respect and understand the huge role faith plays in the lives of our foster families.

A fantastic reputation built by outstanding carers who really do commit to the children they care for – sometimes for life!

Awarded 'Good' by Ofsted in March 23 who said, "Children develop a sense of belonging in stable and secure fostering families..."



Job Title:

Panel Member for Cornerstone
Fostering Service

Office:

First Floor,
Mattersey Training Centre,
Redford Road,
Mattersey
DN10 5HD

Hours:

8-10 hours a month however you may be required to work additional hours as are reasonably necessary required to fulfil the role.

Remuneration:

Honorarium plus expenses

Accountable to:

Panel Chair

Job Description

Main Duties

- To read the circulated papers carefully before the meeting and to attend the meeting prepared to raise issues and to contribute to the Panel discussion.
- To take responsibility for participating in the making of a recommendation, on each case, and drawing on both personal and professional knowledge and experience.
- To attend at least 75 per cent of meetings of the Panel.
- To be prepared to attend additional Panels if possible, if requested.
- To participate, with other Panel members, in advising on policy and procedural matters as required.
- To safeguard the confidentiality of all Panel papers and Panel discussions.
- To participate in Panel induction and in Panel training, this will be at least one day per year.
- To participate constructively in the annual review of their Panel Chair

Christian Context

- As a Christian organisation Cornerstone only employs Christian staff who affirm the 'Statement of Faith' and who agree to the 'Code of Practice'.
- All aspects of the work will be carried out in a manner consistent with the aims of Cornerstone.
- In the course of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of this role, the post holder is expected to contribute to and (from time to time) facilitate a variety of activities that are consistent with a practicing Christian lifestyle, including worship, Bible study, prayer. Staff and Trustees meet regularly for a short devotion and prayer.

Person Specification

Essential Knowledge/Experience

- Experience, either professionally or personally or both, of the placement of children in foster families, or of children being cared for away from their birth family, or of child development.
- An appreciation of the effect of separation and loss on children.
- Awareness of the richness of different kinds of families and their potential for meeting children's needs.
- Some understanding of the purpose and function of the Panel and of the agency which the Panel is serving, or a willingness to learn.

Essential Skills

- Good listening and communication skills.
- The ability to read, process and analyse large amounts of complex and sometimes distressing information.
- The ability to make an assessment and to form a view, based on the written and verbal information presented to Panel, and the confidence to articulate this at Panel.
- The ability to use personal and/or professional knowledge and experience to contribute to discussions and decision making in a balanced and informed manner.
- The ability to work co-operatively as part of a multi-disciplinary team;
- The ability to attend at least 75 per cent of Panel meetings, arriving on time, and to attend at least one training day each year.
- A commitment to keeping children within their own family or community where this is possible and to maintaining contact between children living in foster families and their birth families where this appears to be in the child's best interest.
- A commitment to fostering as a way of meeting a child's needs where this appears to be in the child's best interests.
- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare in foster care.
- A valuing of diversity in relation to issues of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability and sexuality.
- An understanding of, and a commitment to, the need for confidentiality.
- A willingness to increase knowledge and understanding of issues through reading, discussion and training.
- A willingness to contribute constructively to the annual review of their Panel membership if this is an agency requirement and, as required, to that of other Panel members and the chair.

Person Specification continued...

Desirable Skills and Experience

- A social work qualification will be necessary for certain Panel members. One of the two social work members must have child care expertise and the other must have expertise in the provision of a fostering service.

Disposition

- A determination to do everything to the highest standard.
- Able to take responsibility and exercise appropriate initiative.
- A capability to work unsupervised.
- A full understanding of and sympathy towards Cornerstone's values, aims and objectives both as a charity and as a Christian organisation.
- A willingness to sign Cornerstone's 'Statement of Faith' and 'Code of Practice'.

Terms & Conditions

Hours: 8-10 hours a month however you may be required to work additional hours as are reasonably necessary required to fulfil the role.

Remuneration: Honorarium plus expenses.

Cornerstone reserves the right to amend or add to this job description at its discretion. Changes will be discussed with you in person and notification made in writing within 28 days of addition or amendment.