

eQuiPT Therapy Services LTD
13 Regent St
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2EG



ADOPTION SUPPORT AGENCY

Statement of Purpose

For eQuiPT Therapy Services Adoption Support Agency





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1. INTRODUCTION

It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for adoption services, that an adoption support service produces a statement of purpose. The following will include our aims and objectives of how we will meet outcomes for children and a description of the services we provide to adoption families. The Statement of Purpose is reflected in our policies, procedures and guidance. It can be used to guide adoption families, children and young people in their expectations of what our adoption service should provide to them.

This document is a statement of purpose for eQuiPT Therapy Services Adoption Support Agency.

The Statement of Purpose has been produced in accordance with:

- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014
- The Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
- Care Standards Act 2000

eQuiPT Adoption Support Agency is inspected against these standards by Ofsted.

2. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The requirements of the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 and the Children and Families Act 2014 underpin the principles and values of our service.



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Our fundamental value at eQuiPT is integrity. Ensuring that we are honest and transparent in our approach to working with families, offering them quality therapeutic support and putting them at the heart of what we do, whilst striving to constantly improve our service.

Values: Children

- The child's wishes and feelings are taken into account at all stages of the therapeutic process
- The child's ethnic origin, cultural background, religion, language and sexuality will be fully recognised, positively valued and promoted when decisions are made
- The child's welfare, safety and needs will be at the centre of the therapeutic practice
- Children are treated with dignity and respect
- Children are provided with an age-appropriate therapeutic intervention that they can fully access and enjoy, that is not reliant on their communication skills
- Children feel a change in their own feelings of self-worth and can recognise improvements during the therapeutic process

Values: Parents and Families

- Parents will be included and communicated with throughout the therapeutic process
- Parents will be given information that allows them to access therapy for their child easily and as stress free as possible
- Our environment and staff will fully welcome parents and families, creating an environment that is fully inclusive and inviting
- Parents will have easy access to our policies and be made aware of how we manage safeguarding and complaints
- Parents will be given lots of opportunities to give feedback about their experiences

Equal Opportunities

eQuiPT accepts that in society certain groups or individuals are denied equality on the grounds of race, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, disability, gender re-assignment, age, social class, sexual orientation and religion/belief or any other factor irrelevant to the purpose in view.

eQuiPT accepts the statutory requirements laid down in:

- the Equal Pay Act 1970;
- the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974;
- the Sex Discrimination Act 1975;
- the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations Amendment Act Feb 2000;



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- the NHS Community Care Act 1990;
- the Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996;
- the Human Rights Act Nov 1998;
- the Employment (Religion or Belief) and (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003.

eQuiPT recognises that it has moral and social responsibilities that go beyond the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts and Regulations, and that it should support and contribute to the wider process of change through all aspects of its work and practices in order to eliminate discrimination and promote equality and diversity.

eQuiPT is committed to taking positive steps to ensure that:

- all people are treated with dignity and respect, valuing the diversity of all;
- equality of opportunity and diversity is promoted;
- services are accessible, appropriate and delivered fairly to all;
- the mix of its employees, volunteers and management committees reflects, as far as possible, the broad mix of the population of its local community;
- traditionally disadvantaged sections of the community are encouraged to participate in policy decisions about, and the management of the services provided.
- eQuiPT reserves the right to use freelance associate therapists who are trained and registered to the highest standards which include courses that include post graduate university standards and include personal therapy.

3.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AGENCY

- That we deliver a high-quality service, which is provided by staff who are suitably trained, experienced, qualified, registered with a relevant registration body and supervised (both clinically and managerially) guaranteeing the best possible standards of therapeutic intervention
- To support parents in their understanding of their adoptive child to enable successful parenting
- That there is a sustained improvement in the lives of children even when they have complex and challenging needs. This includes positive mental health, future life chance and improved relationships with others (family and peers)
- Evidenced improvement for children because of the support provided by the agency
- Children are helped to develop skills and strategies to manage their feelings and emotional reactions more affectively during future difficulties



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- The therapeutic support helps them to develop a positive internal working model to increase their ability to form and sustain attachments, to build emotional resilience and a sense of identity
- Helping children to successfully process previous trauma and adverse childhood experience, resulting in improved mental health
- Concerns about the service are addressed, information about the complaints procedure is made available and easily accessible
- That the organisation regularly reviews the services it provides, consults with and learns from those in receipt of their services through feedback



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All our Therapists are post-graduate trained in their chosen discipline & registered to ensure standards are maintained.



4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

eQuiPT Therapy Services became a registered Adoption Support Agency in October 2022, although had offered therapeutic services for many years before this. We are based in Barnsley town Centre, making us easily accessible to families, as there is access to public transport as well as a carpark next to the unit with dedicated spaces for our families. We are on the Provider’s List for Yorkshire and Humberside, but mainly serve the South Yorkshire One Adoption team and special guardian social care teams. Our Responsible Individual Louise Fisher is an experienced Senior Social worker who supports Special Guardian families across Barnsley. Our services are aimed at being child and family friendly, using creative therapies to engage children and young people.



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We also have a community interest company, which raises funds to support families who are unable to access a funded therapy service.

5. SERVICE USERS

eQuiPT provides an adoption service to:

- Adopted children between the ages of 2 to 18
- Special guardian children between the ages of 2 to 18
- Children transitioning from LAC to adoption & their prospective approved adopters
- Adoptive parents
- Special guardian parents
- Foster parents
- Birth parents
- Birth families
- We also support, advise and train professionals, including social workers and school staff
- We are also in a good position to support adopted adults who require support to process their feelings around their childhood adoption and would welcome these referrals

6. THE WORK OF EQUIPT ADOPTION SUPPORT AGENCY

The Head Office is Based at:

Unit 12

Churchfield Court

Barnsley

S70 2JT

Our Service Provides the following therapeutic support:

Assessments:

- CAPA (Child Attachment and Play Assessment)
- MIM (Marschak Interaction Method)
- Family Play assessment
- SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire)



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- PSI-4 (Parental Stress Index)

Therapies:

- Play Therapy
- Filial Therapy
- Art Psychotherapy
- EMDR Therapy
- Counselling
- Animal Assisted Play Therapy
- SandStory Therapy
- Therapeutic Life Story

Other Support:

- Parental Consultation
- Adoption groups for adoptive parents and their children (open to all One Adoption South Yorkshire). Parents get to chat with each other whilst children are allocated to art and play groups suitable to their age
- CIC events during the year
- Training and advice for professionals

Information about eQuiPT Adoption Support Agency can be accessed via our website, email or telephone.

www.equiptherapy.com

equiptherapy@gmail.com

Office Mobile Number: 07444346952

Registered Manager's Number: 07742687261



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7. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF STAFF

1 registered manager, 1 responsible individual, 1 administrator, 4 Play Therapists, 2 Filial Therapists, 6 Art Psychotherapists, 1 EMDR therapist, a Counsellor, 1 Art Therapy Student, 1 therapeutic support worker staff & 1 therapy dog

Name & Role	Qualifications	Experience
<p>Louise Fisher Responsible Individual Senior Social Worker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma in Social Work • Post-Graduate Certificate in Professional Practice with Children & Families • Practice Educator levels 1 & 2 • Accredited Social Worker 	<p>18 years post-qualified experience</p>
<p>Sandra Georgeson Registered Manager Play & Filial Therapist Attachment Assessor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Graduate Diploma Play Therapy • Intensive Filial Therapy • BSc (Hons) Psychology • BA (Hons) Textiles & Surface Pattern • CAPA (Child Attachment & Play Assessment) – reliable coder • MIM assessment • MoTC (Meaning of the Child Interview) • ASI (Attachment Style Interview) • Animal Assisted Play Therapy Trained • SandStory Therapy • Currently studying NVQ5 Leadership & Management 	<p>14 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p> <p>25 years experience of working with children and families in various roles</p>



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<p>Lindsey Childs Senior Art Psychotherapist & EMDR Therapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Psychotherapy • EMDR Therapist • SandStory Therapy • Therapeutic Life Story 	<p>13 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Lucy Harrison Senior Art Psychotherapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Art Psychotherapy • BA (Hons) Performing Art & Drama 	<p>13 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Louise Howarth Play & Filial Therapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Graduate Diploma Play Therapy • Intensive Filial Therapy • CQSW Social Work • BSc (Hons) Psychology & Education • Certified Theraplay Practitioner • DDP Level 1 & 2 • SandStory Therapy 	<p>13 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Kelly McCarthy Play Therapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Play Therapy • Qualified teacher • BSc Psychology • Certificate in Integrative Sandplay 	<p>3 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Louise Bayne Counsellor & Integrative Therapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG Diploma in Counselling & Psychotherapy • BA (Hons) Fine Art • SandStory Therapy 	<p>2 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Laura Lee Art Psychotherapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Art Psychotherapy • Post-Graduate Certificate in Education • BA Fine Art 	<p>2 years post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Will Jones Art Psychotherapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Art Psychotherapy • BA (Hons) Fine Art 	<p>1 year post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>
<p>Becky Morgan Art Psychotherapist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Art Psychotherapy 	<p>1 year post-qualified experience as a therapist</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography BA (Hons) 	
Caitlin Holland Art Psychotherapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Art Psychotherapy • Bachelor of Nursing 	1 year post-qualified experience as a therapist
Penni Wright Play Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Graduate Diploma in Play Therapy • BA(Hons) Social Work 	3 year post-qualified experience as a therapist
Jade Senior-White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health First Aid • Nurture Lead qualified • NVQ3 in Supporting Teaching and Learning • ELSA trained • Therapeutic Play trained 	10 years working in roles with children
Janine Brullo Finance Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Kerry Hanson Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced in Administration 	



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8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE

We monitor and evaluate our service in a number of ways. This includes regular review meetings with parents and social workers, which looks at the aims and objectives of the therapeutic support to see if targets are being met and the therapy remains on track.

We use measuring tools at the start and end of therapy, sometimes during the interim if therapy is long term. The tools we use are the SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) and the PSI-4 (Parental Stress Index).

We also ask families to complete evaluation forms to share their thoughts about our service. We also monitor progress in sessions and note feedback along the way so that we can include observations and comments within our reports.

9. CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We have an up-to-date complaints procedure that gives parents a step-by-step guide to how to make a complaint.



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Our Complaint's Procedure



Details of the Registration Authority

OSTED CONTACT DETAILS

Ofsted National Business Unit

Piccadilly Gate Store Street,

Manchester,

M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk