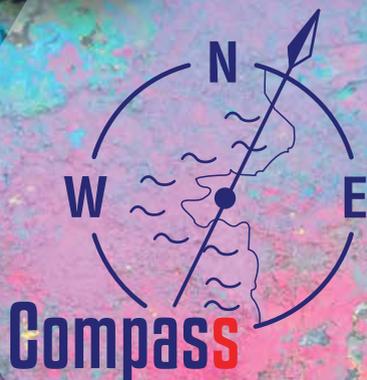


COMPASS FOSTERING SERVICES



Compass Child and Family Services Philosophy in working with young people and families

All our services and supports to young people and families are underpinned by principles of social pedagogy and incorporate those principles on how we engage with young people, families and how our services are delivered.

Brief Description of Social Pedagogy

Social pedagogy is based on humanistic values stressing human dignity, mutual respect, trust, unconditional appreciation, and equality. It is underpinned by a fundamental concept of children, young people and adults as equal human beings with rich and extraordinary potential and considers them competent, resourceful and active agents.

'Children are not the people of tomorrow, but are the people of today. They have a right to be taken seriously, and to be treated with tenderness and respect. They should be allowed to grow into whoever they were meant to be – the unknown person inside each of them is our hope for the future'

Janusz Korczak (1878 – 1942)





Compass Fostering Services Aims and Objectives

Compass Fostering Services main aim is to provide a continuity of care for the children and young people already in its existing care settings. Fundamentally, we want the importance of secure attachments and trusting relationships being maintained, as children and young people transition from their out of home care environment to a foster care placement.

Compass Fostering Services will recruit, train and support foster carers to be able to foster children and young people in a home environment. We want to develop foster carers that are capable of caring for vulnerable and complex children and young people.

We feel that putting an increasing emphasis on the supports given to foster carers and their requirement to engage in them, will in turn promote the children and young people in their care to reach their full potential and developmentally grow throughout their placement.

What Supports will I Receive?

As a foster carer, you can expect:

- » **24/7 Support** – We offer round the clock support to you and the young people in your care. This is done through on-call phone support.
- » **Outreach Support** – Each young person is allocated a Fostering Support Pedagogue (keyworker), who will work alongside you to support both you and the young person. Young people regularly spend time with their keyworker, which will include some weekend activities to give you a break.
- » **Supervision** – Regular supervision will be provided to you from fully qualified and trained professionals.
- » **Carer Team Meetings** – These meetings allow foster carers the opportunity to discuss the needs of the young person with the service manager. It also gives carers the chance to discuss and share approaches they have found to be successful.
- » **Carer Support Group** – Over time, regular carer support group meetings will be developed. These will allow for mutual support and sharing of experiences for all carers.
- » **Training** – We provide a comprehensive training programme which includes: Introduction to Social Pedagogy, Management of Actual and Potential Aggression (MAPA), Child Protection, First Aid and Fire training. Other relevant training provided will be: Attachment training and training in relation to documentation will be delivered. We also provide annual refresher trainings.
- » **Health and Wellbeing** – All children and young people will be supported by our intervention team. This team provides: psychological consultation, assessments, family support and interventions for young people.

Guiding Principles

Each child will be viewed first and foremost as a child capable of being cared for by those willing and committed to provide them with unconditional positive regard or love. Other prominent Principles that guide us are:

- » To promote optimal development and functioning of the child or young person in partnership with their parents/ caregivers
- » To provide a holistic family centred practice/service
- » To be accessible, flexible and responsive to foster carers' needs
- » To value and empower parents/caregivers
- » To provide a Fostering Support Pedagogue (keyworker) for families
- » To ensure the delivery of reliable and well established interventions drawn from a wide range of theories and practices
- » To ensure best practice principles are identified and adhered to



Do I have what it takes?

Fostering is a rewarding career; however it can also be a challenge. If you can deal patiently and consistently with behaviours that challenge, understand the needs of young people who have disrupted family situations, and can be present when things are tough then this is a role for you.

What we ask of you...?

To foster with us, we ask that you have previous experience of engaging with young people, either paid employment, on a voluntary basis, or within your family and friends circle.

To foster with Compass Fostering Services, we ask that you:

- » Live in a household with no children under 16 years old
- » Have experience with children and adolescents (3 years min.)
- » Are able to bring the child to school every day
- » Have lived alone, or with a live-in partner for at least 2 years.
- » To engage in on-going training and attend supervision/ carer team meetings & support groups
- » Expectation to commit to future learning/education linked to fostering. This includes: Social Pedagogy Training and Understanding of Attachment Training.



The Fostering Journey

Our recruitment process can take a minimum of six months. This could be shorter depending on individual circumstances.

- **Step 1** Register your interest by calling us on 061 622040/085 130 5752, enquire via email at fostering@compasscfs.ie or visit the website on www.compasscfs.ie/compassfosteringsservices.
- **Step 2** Contact between you and us to exchange further information, explain more about becoming foster carers and answer any questions you may have.
- **Step 3** We will arrange an initial home visit to gather further information, explain more about Compass Fostering Services and discuss the fostering journey.
- **Step 4** Information booklets and Application forms to be sent out to you, completed and returned to us.
- **Step 5** An allocated social worker will complete the assessment process with you. They will visit you at home a minimum of ten times to get to know you and your family. We will undertake a range of checks including Gardaí vetting and reference checks (both personal and professional). As part of the assessment we will also require medical information to establish your fitness to foster.
- **Step 6** The information gathered as part of the assessment (Form F) process will be forwarded to a fostering panel. They will make a decision regarding your approval as foster carers.

What Do You Need To Do Now?

If you have read over the booklet and are ready to find out more, it would be great to speak to you.



Get in Touch

We will make time to meet with any potential foster carers willing to know more about fostering and the fostering services we provide in Compass.

Make an enquiry

Telephone: + 353 61 622040 / +353 85 130 5752

Email: Fostering@compasscfs.ie

Address: Unit 8A, Convent Hill, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Website: www.compasscfs.ie/compassfosteringsservices

Compass Fostering Services is part of Compass Child and Family Services CLG (Compass CFS) which was established as a non for profit organisation in 2012. Compass CFS is now a charitable organisation since May 2017. The registered office is Unit 8A, Convent Hill, Killaloe, Co. Clare. Registered in Ireland, No. 520979. Registered Charity No. 20144180. CHY No. 21990.

Compass CFS as an organisation is fully committed to the principle of working in partnership with all individuals, groups and organisations it interacts with.

To find out more information on the structure of Compass Fostering Services, please contact 085 130 5752 or visit the website on www.compasscfs.ie/compassfosteringsservices