



## ORIGINS

# Adoption Support Agency Statement of Purpose

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## **1. Introduction to Statement of Purpose**

This document sets out the Statement of Purpose of the adoption support agency. It is a public document and complies with the Adoption Support Agencies Regulations 2005, Statutory Guidance on Adoption 2013 and National Minimum Standards 2014.

The Statement of Purpose is reviewed annually by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Father Hudson's Care. A copy of this Statement is available upon request to anyone working for the purposes of the Adoption Support Agency, anybody receiving services from the Adoption Support Agency or any Local Authority or other person requesting information about our services. It is also available on our website.

Ofsted are forwarded a copy of the Statement of Purpose on each occasion it is revised and following the approval of its content by the CEO.

## **2. Introduction to the Service & Registration by Ofsted**

Father Hudson's Care is the working name for Father Hudson's Society, which was originally set up in 1902 as the Birmingham Diocesan Rescue Society. Father Hudson's Care is the Social Care Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham and it provides a variety of services including fostering, school family support, community projects, residential and day care for elderly people and people with dementia and adults with disabilities. It also provides an Origins Service which provides post adoption support and post care support to those impacted by childhood separation from their family of origin.

Father Hudson's Care has provided adoption support since the early 1990s, initially as part of a registered adoption agency. Since July 2009, Father Hudson's Care has operated a registered Adoption Support Agency, which is registered with Ofsted to provide birth records counselling, intermediary services and adoption support to adults. It also is registered to provide adoption support to children but does this by commissioning services for adoptive families and children, where Father Hudson's Care approved the adopters and Local Authorities placed children with them.

## **3. Values of Father Hudson's Care**

Father Hudson's Care aims to provide a high quality service to people regardless of race, colour, religion, language, culture, social conditions, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.

We believe in the protection of all human life, the dignity of each person and have respect for their rights and values.

We believe that we should seek to empower all whom we serve to reach their full potential and will work in collaboration with them and others towards achieving this end.

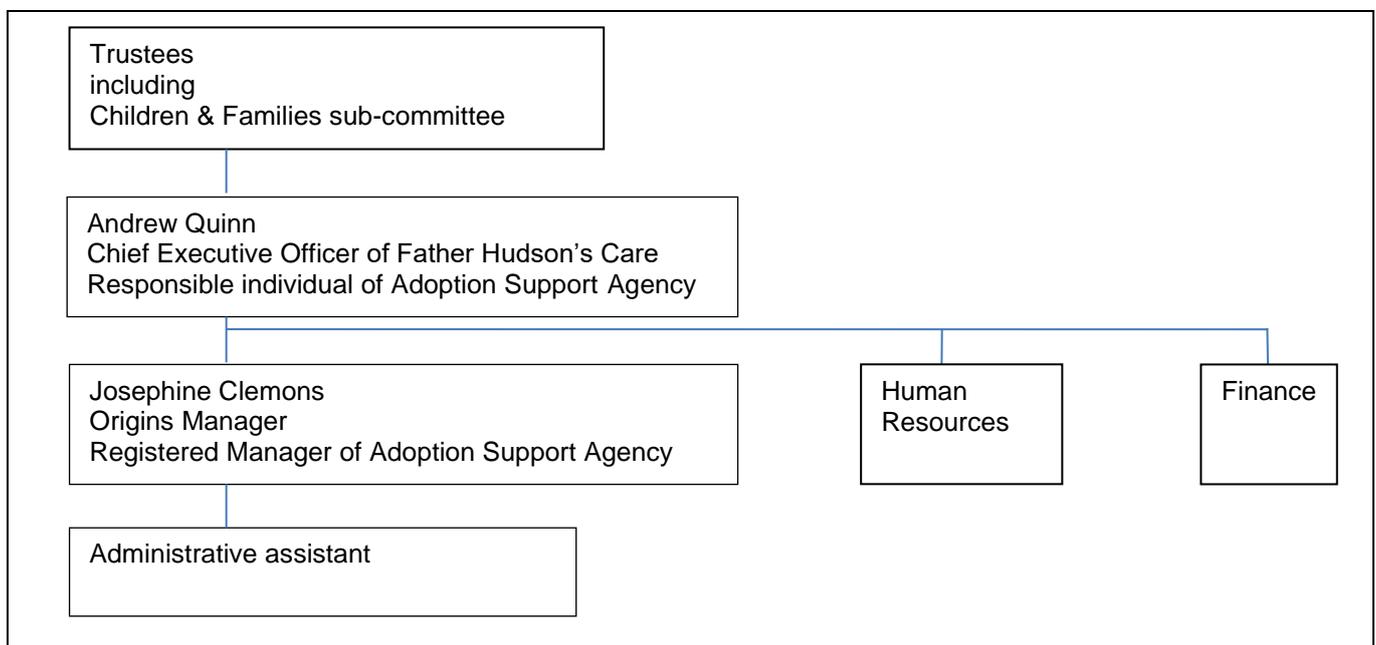
We believe that people should be able to exercise genuine choice in the services they need appropriate to their religious, cultural and other requirements.

We believe that our employees should be well informed of the Aims and Objectives of the agency and should be provided with suitable opportunity for development of skills and responsibilities in keeping with those Aims and Objectives.

#### 4. Organisation, Management and Staff Structure.

Father Hudson's Society is a Registered Charity (number 512992) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Registration No. 1653388). It is managed by a Board of Trustees. The Board have a number of sub-committees which reflect the different areas of the agency's work and a Children and Families sub-committee oversees the work of Fostering and Schools Support, Community Projects and Origins.

The Trustees delegate operational management of Father Hudson's Care to Andrew Quinn, Chief Executive Officer. He is supported by managers of various services, including Josephine Clemons (known as Siobhán), Manager of the Origins Service.



#### Relevant Qualifications and Experience of the Manager

The adoption support agency has a registered manager, Josephine Clemons who also takes day to day responsibility for the delivery of the service for adults.

She qualified as a social worker in 1989 and is registered with Social Work England (Registration No. SW43359). She has a B.Soc.Sc, an MA in Applied Social Studies, a CQSW, a PQSW and a Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Young People's Services.

She has practiced as a social worker since qualifying and has experience of statutory and voluntary work in childcare and work with adults affected by adoption. She has mainly worked in adoption since qualifying and has been with the Origins Service since 1998.

#### Number, relevant qualifications and experience of staff

Whilst day to day work is carried out by the manager, she is assisted by an administrative assistant who has relevant qualifications.

Father Hudson's Care provides adoption support services to adoptive families with children under the age of 18 years through a service level agreement with Adoption Focus (a registered Adoption Agency).

## **5. The Aims, Objectives and Intended Outcomes**

Father Hudson's Care recognises the life-long impact of adoption on the adopted person and their family, as well as on the birth family.

The agency has been involved in adoption from the early days of adoption being legalised in 1926. Up until the mid-1990s, it was responsible for the placement of approximately 3000 children for adoption. It has additionally provided adoptive placements for Local Authorities seeking adoptive placements for children.

Father Hudson's Care aims to provide a comprehensive and quality post adoption service for adults affected by adoption. It mainly works with those whose adoption was arranged by Father Hudson's Care.

Its overall intended outcome is to provide people with information to help them to understand the circumstances of their adoption and to learn about their birth family. It also seeks to provide all parties with the support and help needed to enable renewed contact to take place between those separated by adoption.

It recognises that adoption related matters may need to be addressed throughout life and accepts that people may return at various times for services.

The outcomes intended through the provision of this service are:

- For adoptees to develop an understanding of their background and of the circumstances surrounding their adoption, as can be ascertained from the records kept at the time.
- An effective search for relatives, regardless of how many decades since the previous contact providing some positive outcomes regardless of the conclusions of the search. Intended outcomes include a better sense of identity, healing, wellbeing and closure.
- A skilled and responsible intermediary service, ensuring both parties have their interests safeguarded, that any contact is effectively facilitated and support is provided throughout, to both parties to achieve the best outcome for all.

Father Hudson's Care also offers a service (under a service level agreement with Adoption Focus) to adoptive families until the child is 18 years, in cases where an adoption was arranged by a Local Authority and the child adopted by an adoptive family provided by Father Hudson's Care.

The outcomes intended through the provision of this service are:

- To achieve the continuing stability of safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for adopted children.
- To support adoptive families in enabling children to feel safe, secure, valued, and to achieve a sense of belonging. Through this the service aims to enable children

to achieve to their full potential and to enjoy opportunities to participate fully in all that positive family life can offer.

- By sustaining adoption placements for children, the intended outcome is that they will have much improved opportunities to build meaningful and lasting relationships which will prepare them for adult life.

## **6. Services provided by the Adoption Support Agency**

All enquirers are provided with information about our services or signposted to other more appropriate services.

Adopted adults whose adoptions were arranged by Father Hudson's Care are provided with birth records counselling and comprehensive information from our records of their adoption. A portfolio of information is prepared and may be shared with the applicant direct or via their local authority adoption team.

Intermediary services for adults affected by adoption, whether they are the adopted person, a birth relative or an adult descendant or other person closely connected to the adopted person. These services are not restricted to those adoptions arranged by Father Hudson's Care. Fees are payable for these services. The agency is particularly experienced in tracing relatives in Ireland and in tracing UK born adoptees on behalf of birth relatives in Ireland. The agency has strong links with Irish agencies.

Support, advice and guidance in relation to the above services.

Services for adoptive families and adoptees where the adoptee is under eighteen and whose adoption was with a family provided by Father Hudson's Care, are provided by Adoption Focus on our behalf. Such services include support groups, life story work, general advice, support and guidance.

## **7. Procedures for assessing the needs of those requesting adoption support services.**

Enquiries to the Service usually are by self-referral. Other enquiries may be made on behalf of the service user by another agency or a Local Authority.

Upon receipt of an enquiry, the Origins manager will make an assessment as to whether we are the adoption agency who arranged the adoption. This assessment determines what level of service we can offer. Advice is given on whether it might be more appropriate to access information from the adoption records before applying for an intermediary service.

Prior to providing services an assessment is made about whether the enquirer has any special needs that need to be taken account of. A check is also made as to whether the applicant for a service is over eighteen and in the case of an application for an intermediary service, whether the applicant and subject are over eighteen and are related to each other.

At certain times, the service may need to prioritise cases and operate a waiting list. In this case there is a clearly defined list of criteria to assist in prioritising cases, with particular priority given to pre 1975 adoptions, in line with regulation ISR 5(2).

Enquiries for adoption support from parents of those under 18 year of age will be referred to Adoption Focus for an initial assessment of service request. The enquirer may be supported in seeking an assessment of need for adoption support services from their Local Authority, if the enquiry indicates that a particular resource is required, and which is beyond the scope of the service provided by Adoption Focus, or if an application could be made to the Adoption Support Fund.

## **8. Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluating the Service**

A variety of systems are in place to ensure a high quality service and to monitor and evaluate the services provided:

- Social work qualified staff are registered with Social Work England
- Staff have regular supervision and an annual appraisal.
- Staff have access to relevant training opportunities to update and develop their practice.
- Service users are invited to comment on the service provided, both informally and formally.
- Service users are advised of the agency's complaints procedure.
- The Children and Families Sub-Committee of Trustees receives a quarterly report regarding the activity of the adoption support service.
- The Trustees receive an annual report about the adoption support service activities and performance.
- We use the National Minimum Adoption Standards to benchmark and guide services as well as feedback from users of the service.
- The service is regularly inspected by OFSTED.

## **9. A Summary of the Complaints Procedures**

Service users are provided with information on how and where to make a complaint. They are also provided with the address and telephone numbers of OFSTED and provided with information on other independent advice.

The complaints procedure has 2 stages – an informal and a formal stage.

It is anticipated that minor complaints will be dealt with at the informal stage by the manager. The responsible individual is to be notified of all complaints.

It is hoped that the matter can be resolved quickly. If this is not possible through the informal stage, the matter can be moved to the formal stages of the complaints procedure. This will be investigated by a senior manager and a full response will be provided as detailed in the agency's procedure.

## 10. Contact details of adoption support agency

### Names and Address of the Registered Provider.

Father Hudson's Care  
St. George's House  
Gerards Way  
Coleshill  
B46 3FG  
Tel: 01675 434000  
E-mail: [origins@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:origins@fatherhudsons.org.uk)  
[www.fatherhudsons.org.uk](http://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk)

### Name and Address of the Responsible Individual

Andrew Quinn  
Chief Executive  
Father Hudson's Care  
St. George's House  
Gerards Way  
Coleshill  
B46 3FG  
Tel: 01675 434000  
E-mail: [andyquinn@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:andyquinn@fatherhudsons.org.uk)

### Name and Address of the Registered Manager

Josephine Clemons  
Father Hudson's Care  
St. George's House  
Gerards Way  
Coleshill  
B46 3FG  
Tel: 01675 434000  
E-mail: [siobhanclemons@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:siobhanclemons@fatherhudsons.org.uk)

## 11. Contact details of Ofsted

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD  
  
Tel: **0300 123 1231** about children's services  
or any other aspect of Ofsted's work.  
E-mail: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Approved by Chief Executive Officer

Name: Andy Quinn

Signed:

Date: 11 May 2021