

	<b>Association Rules</b> <b>Essex Foster Carers Association</b>	<b>To be reconsidered by</b> <b>October 2023</b>
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## The Rules of the Essex Foster Carers Association

Adopted on the 15<sup>th</sup> May/ 2012 at the Charity's Annual General Meeting

Registered Charity Number 1120106

### Rule 1: Name

- 1) The name of the Charity shall be the Essex Foster Carers Association (EFCA). and in this document is referred to as the Association.
- 2) For these Rules, the term Foster Carer applies to any household currently approved for fostering by Essex County Council

### Rule 2: Activities

To enable the association to achieve its aims and objectives it may:

- a) Raise funds
- b) Hold open forums
- c) Engage in educational and promotional activities
- d) Hold meetings
- e) Support, develop and advise local foster care groups
- f) Work with the fostering service to promote the wellbeing of foster carers in Essex

### Rule 3: Community

The Association shall be non-party political, non-sectarian, and non-discriminatory in all its activities.

### Rule 4: Membership

- 1) Membership of the Association shall be open to all foster carers currently approved by Essex County Council.
- 2) Trustees may grant membership of the Association to others who may be in a position, through their skills, knowledge or experience, to support the work of Association

### Rule 5: Honorary Members

- 1) Honorary membership may be granted to individuals and given the titles:
  - a) President: this will normally be a public figure that is able to promote the aims of the Association with Essex County councillors & senior management and local businesses.

- b) Vice Presidents: these are persons who have made a significant contribution to the work and activities of the Association.
- 2) Honorary members may attend meetings of members and trustees, but have no powers of office and may not vote in any ballot.

#### **Rule 6: Management**

- 1) Management and day to day control of the association is vested in the committee of trustees, which in this document is called the Committee. Its structure, activities, and election shall be as set-out in the constitution.
- 2) The committee will meet at least three times per year either in person or virtually
- 3) The Committee shall have the power to invite persons with special knowledge to attend its meetings as an observer or advisor, but with no voting rights.
- 4) Should any trustee be under investigation by Essex County Council, or other Statutory Body, then they:
  - a) must immediately inform the chair or vice-chair;
  - b) may be required to step down from the committee, or restrict their role, according to the nature of the issue being investigated, until such time as the investigation reaches a conclusion.

#### **Rule 6: Financial**

- 1) The financial year of the Association shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 2) The Charity shall make such arrangements as required by statute and clauses 22 and 33 of the Constitution for the validation of the Charity's accounts.
- 3) Bank account(s) shall;
  - a) be in the name of the Association that is registered with the Charity Commission, or its former name (Essex Foster Carers Council) ;
  - b) require the signatures of any two empowered trustees/officers to sign for all payments, withdrawals and transfers.

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