

Children who wait

If you would like to find out more information about fostering any of the children below, please ask your supervising social worker to discuss your interest with Paul Scott, social worker who has the lead for children who wait.

Brandon* is an energetic, white British 12 year old boy, who likes to be busy and active throughout the day. He has a good sense of humour, is confident and if he sets his mind to something he will generally do it, without thinking about the risk and consequences of his actions.

Brandon is seeking a long-term fostering placement which should include a male carer. He has built a good relationship with the staff members in the residential home. He is a very physically able young boy who can put his hand to all sports and is quick and agile but he does need support regarding some of his personal care skills. He has significant attachment and behavioural difficulties, however, he has made progress in both these areas, although will need further support to manage his emotions.

Charlotte* is a 12 year old white British girl who is very quiet towards people she does not know. Charlotte has age appropriate self-care skills and has a good sense of humour. She enjoys horse-riding and activities including hair, nails, beauty and fashion; Charlotte likes to take pride in her appearance.

Due to her feelings of insecurity and mistrust towards male adults, a single female carer who has robust support networks would be ideal to provide a long term placement. Alternatively a two parent family with a good support network would be considered.

As a result of Charlotte's neglectful background, an assessment revealed that she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder indicative of an insecure disorganised attachment. She will need to have consistent boundaries in place and carers will need to offer a variety of behavioural strategies, offering a calm, relaxed and nurturing environment. Charlotte would benefit from being the only child in placement; she would also find it difficult living with another female child.

Dominic* is a very lively and active white British 9 year old. He is tall for his age, engaging and loving with a good sense of humour. Dominic likes to be in control of play and can be quite demanding that this is organised by him. He loves riding his bike and scooter and is very knowledgeable about cars.

Ideally Dominic would benefit from two carers who are experienced and have sound knowledge of attachment and child development. In addition, due to his emotional needs, ideally he should be the only child in a long term placement.

Dominic can be easily excitable at times, but does present with poor self-esteem and low confidence. He sometimes has difficulty managing his emotions which can result in him 'lashing out' towards belongings, adults or children. Although this kind of behaviour has not changed when displayed, the number of incidents have decreased which evidences the positive changes he has made. Advice, guidance and techniques to manage this behaviour, would be shared with potential foster carers.

Dominic had to leave his first foster placement due to the carer's ill health and he never got to say goodbye, since then he has had several moves with him now living in a therapeutic residential unit which is his seventh placement. Although things have been difficult for Dominic with a significant number of placement moves, he does appear to be making positive progress in his current therapeutic placement where clear routines, guidance and boundaries have been implemented.

Ben* is a 13 year old quiet white British boy who is wary of adults but becomes more talkative when he gets to know people. Ben is currently living in a residential unit; he likes to control his environment and try and get others to do what he wants to do, this makes him feel safe. He likes to be involved in activities and play with other children, is able to form friendships and has an understanding of other children's issues.

Due to Ben's feelings of insecurity, we are looking for a two parent family with a good support network who could offer befriending and support care to him with a view to building this up to a long term foster placement. Carers will need to have consistent boundaries have a variety of behavioural strategies in place. Carers will need to devote their time to Ben and have patience to build up a positive relationship with him. They will need to offer a calm, relaxed and nurturing environment together with consistent guidelines.

Ben experienced neglectful and abusive parenting and carers would need to be able to address his emotional and behavioural issues with an understanding that there will be on going CAHMS support.

Jack* is a 12 year old, white British boy who has ongoing emotional and attachment issues due to difficult early life experiences, however, he has developed positive relationships with staff members in the residential unit. Jack would like to live in a long term placement with carers who can provide a calm, secure and stable home where there are two carers and ideally he is the only child or the youngest.

He is keen and enthusiastic to try new things and enjoys swimming, bike riding and likes playing outdoors under the supervision of staff.

Jack likes 'one to one' attention and can sometimes mistrust adults around him due to his life experiences. His behaviour can be challenging and his is not always keen

to follow instructions. He likes to get his own way; this makes him feel safe. A caring and therapeutic style of parenting is needed for Jack; carers who can work in partnership with other professionals, who will promote positive attachments and a safe home for him to develop in. CAMHS will continue to offer support to staff who are working with Jack.

Maisie* is an 11 year old white, girl with a good sense of humour who is developing her own personality. She is strong minded and intelligent with a loving, caring side to her. Maisie does present some emotional and behavioural difficulties and struggles to form relationships with adults and peers, in addition, she can be prone to jealousy and ideally should be the only child. Maisie has also been known to self-harm and there has been concerns of sexualised behaviour in the past.

Maisie loves 'Monster High' and has recently started to play the guitar. She also enjoys some sports and would like to train for her belts in Judo. She enjoys spending time with her carers in the residential unit and enjoys watching movies. A two parent family would be preferred to meet Maisie's needs.

Kane* is also 11 years old. He is a mixed race, white and black Caribbean boy who is tall with an average build for his age. Although wary at first, Kane enjoys the company of adults and is talkative. He is a likeable young man who enjoys pool and outdoor activities, particularly camping. He also enjoys street dance and ballet.

Kane will need to have a two carer placement who have clear boundaries and behavioural strategies in place to manage challenging behaviour as he experienced neglectful and abusive parenting. He has spent time with his grandmother in the past where his behaviour improved and carers will have the support of CAMHS and other agencies.

Kane missed long periods of school when he lived at home; he is behind his peers, however, he enjoys learning and is progressing well and it is felt with continued support, will be working at the same stage as his peers in the future.

31 July 2017