

# **Acts of Parliament**

Listed below are the main acts and orders affecting the public care of children living in England.

## **Children Act 2008**

- Implements commitments contained within Care Matters: *Time for Change*
- Revised the national Minimum Standards which will affect the way fostering services are run (Incl. the training, support and development of carers)

## **Every Child Matters: Change for Children 2004**

- Sets out the government's vision that every child, whatever their background our support would have the support they need to:
  - Be healthy
  - Stay Safe
  - Achieve Economic well-being
  - Make a positive contribution
  - Enjoy and achieve
- The CWDC was set up in order to support those working across education, health and social services to ensure all staff could deliver these outcomes effectively.

## **Children Act 2004**

- Provided the legislative spine to the Every Child Matters: Change for Children
- Establishes a new Children's Commissioner for England who will raise awareness of the best interest of children and young people in Parliament
- Allows for the setting up of contact –a Multi-agency database containing basic information on every child living in the UK
- Requires the set up of a Local safeguarding children board
- Stronger requirements placed on local authorities to manage and monitor private fostering arrangements
- Brings in a minimum fostering allowance
- Puts a duty on Local Authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.

## **Adoption and Children Act 2002**

- Modernises the whole legal existing framework for domestic and inter-country adoption
- Introduces the new legal order Special guardianship which offers legal permanence for children for whom adoption is not suitable.

## **Care Standards Act 2000**

- Introduced Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards to ensure that all fostering activity is regulated and inspected

### **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000**

- Places duties on local Authorities to assess and meet the needs of young people leaving care.

### **Protection of Children Act 1999**

- Created a system for identifying people unsuitable to working with children and introduced the checking of criminal records of people who want to work with children or young people.

### **Children Act 1989**

- Introduced major reforms to legislation for children, including the introduction of the concept of parental responsibility and giving powers to local authorities to provide services for children in need.
- To make provision with respect to fostering, child minding and day care for young children and adoption; and for connected purposes.
- Amends the law with respect to children's homes, community homes, voluntary homes and voluntary organisations.
- The full Act is available online at [www.hms0.gov.uk](http://www.hms0.gov.uk)