

## What do I do next?

### So do you want to Foster a Future?

The next step is to talk to one of our fostering team. They will talk to you in more detail about how fostering works. They will also ask you some questions about you so they can help you decide what kind of fostering would be best for you.

You can contact us by calling 0191 277 2430 or by filling in the enquiry coupon below and returning it using the Freepost address.

**If you know someone who would like this leaflet in large print please contact us on 0191 211 2430.**

Our foster carers are self-employed. The Inland Revenue gives generous tax benefits to foster carers and you may also qualify for some State Benefits.

All foster carers are provided with regular training to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of children in their care. We also provide financial support to enable foster carers to study for an NVQ 3 in child care. You will be invited to undertake a thorough training programme before you start to foster.

Foster carers are supported by a specialist fostering social worker. Every child in care also has their own social worker. Foster carers are able to contact someone on 24 hour basis for support and advice. Should the child or young person have additional health, educational or social needs, the foster carer can access support from a dedicated multi-disciplinary team comprising of specialists from education and health.



*"Fostering changed my life, truly; the children have honestly given as much back to me as I've given to them. I can't imagine being without children in my home and I am proud to be able to provide for their needs."*

**Mariam, 54** currently fostering a young child

**I am interested in more information about Foster a Future and I would like someone to contact me for an informal discussion about fostering children and young people from my community.**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

TEL: .....

MOBILE: .....

Please complete your details and return this form to:

**FREEPOST, FOSTER A FUTURE**



Fostering Service, Sheriff Leas Office,  
Springfield Road, Blakelaw,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 3DS  
Tel: 0191 277 2430 • Fax: 0191 277 2421  
Email: [fosterafuture@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:fosterafuture@newcastle.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk)

All pictures posed by models.

Fostering children  
and young people  
from your community





traditions. That's why we need foster carers from all of Newcastle's communities.

Being a foster carer isn't easy and you may face some tough challenges. But it's also very rewarding. And, if you foster with Newcastle City Council, we will be there to give you support and help every step of the way.

There are several different kinds of foster care:

- Short-term fostering for babies and children
- Short-term fostering for teenagers
- Long-term fostering for children and teenagers
- Relief foster care to provide short breaks for families or for other foster carers.

There are also some foster carers who help care for disabled children who live with their own families.

The kind of fostering that's right for you will depend on your experience and personal circumstances.

## Is fostering for you?

Whatever your age, ethnicity or personal circumstances, fostering could be for you. You do not have to own your home or be employed. The most important qualities we look for are that you can provide stability and security to a child.

We would prefer you to have some experience of looking after children. This could be through bringing up your own family, working with children or voluntary work such as helping out at a play group or youth club.

You do not need to own your own home but you must have a spare bedroom. You can work and foster, but if you work full-time it may limit the kinds of fostering you can do.

We also take on foster carers who are unemployed. When you start fostering you will become self-employed.

You don't have to be married. You can be single or living with a partner, gay or straight.

Having a criminal record won't necessarily rule you out but you must tell us about it. If you've been convicted of violent or sexual offences you won't be able to foster.

Being disabled, having health problems or being a smoker won't stop you becoming a foster carer. But everyone who applies to become a foster carer has to have a medical.

Most of all you need to have commitment, patience and the ability to share your life and home with children who need your support.

## What support will I receive?

**We provide all of our foster carers with a full package of financial and professional support.**

We pay an allowance to cover the expenses of caring for the child or young person and the time you spend looking after them.

The allowance depends on the kind of fostering you do and the needs of the child or young person you care for. Allowances can be as much as £400 per child per week depending on the age and needs of the child.

If a child needs particularly skilled care, the allowances could be more. You can have more than one child living with you at a time.



## What is fostering?

**Foster carers provide a secure and loving home for children and teenagers who cannot live with their birth families.**

There are lots of reasons why children cannot live with their families. It could be that they have been neglected or abused. Or their parents may have an illness or personal problems which mean that they cannot care for their child. Sometimes the child or young person may have a disability or complex needs which their family cannot cope with.

The one thing all of these children and young people have in common is that they need care and support, so that they can go on to have a happy and fulfilling future.

It's very important for them to have foster carers who understand their culture and