

Hertfordshire Emergency Foster Carers hub



**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network



This year you could be responsible for putting a smile on the faces of children like these.

Hertfordshire County Council's innovative new approach to supporting children who experience a crisis.

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Hertfordshire

What is Emergency Foster Care?

Emergency foster care ensures children in care have somewhere safe to stay for 10 working days in a crisis whilst family members can be found, children could return home, or an alternative long-term option can be sought.

Due to the increasing number of children coming into care in an emergency we need experienced and available in-house foster carers to support our service.

The Hub has been designed for children who may need somewhere to stay with little warning, and because there is no way of predicting when emergency care will be needed. Children may be entering care because their home environment is unsafe, or perhaps because their parents or carers are suffering from physical or mental health problems.

Individuals can also come into emergency foster care due to unexpected bereavements, leaving children with nowhere to go and requiring an immediate place to stay until longer term arrangements can be made.

The Hub consists of 1 Fostering Senior Practitioner, 4 Hub outreach workers and 5 Emergency Hub foster carers.

The outreach role supports the emergency foster carers and the children who are placed them in an emergency for the duration of the placement including collecting a narrative of the child's story and helping them gather tools to support their emotional and mental wellbeing. The outreach workers work on a 1.2.1 with the children and support the emergency carer to prepare them to move to a new placement or transition back home to birth family.

Why become an Emergency Foster Carer?

Carers will require existing skills of managing children in a crisis and have resilience to manage emergency placements.

Emergency Hub carers need to be available throughout the week and be able to commit to the children in their care.

Foster carers will have access to core training, ARC seminars, monthly supervision, monthly hub support groups and a dedicated WhatsApp group for advice and guidance from the social worker and practitioners. Foster carers will also be able to access the social work out of hours support line (FOOSH) and the Emergency Duty line (EDT) which will enable 24/7 support.

Carers will be paid a £75 retainer per day regardless of if a child is in placement, they will then be paid the child's allowance and skills once a child/ren are placed. Carers must be available to care for a child aged 0-18 and will not have any other children in placement. Example of payments are outlined below for a child 11-18yrs of age. Carers will be retained for 52 weeks of the year but able to request holiday off during this time.

	When paid?	Per day	Per week
Retainer payment	Always (52 weeks)	£75	£525
Level 3 payment	For the 1st child that is placed	£62.33	£463.35
Standard payment for 2nd child		£36.60	£256.24
Child allowance (11-15)	When a child is placed	£28.43	£198

Although emergency foster caring can be unpredictable and demanding, it can also be extremely rewarding. Being there for a child at a time when they need you the most and having the opportunity to offer safety and kindness to a vulnerable young person is a real privilege that makes fostering worthwhile.

Our 1st Hub launched in September 2022 with Debbie and Bruce:



“ We are new to the hub, at first apprehensive as this is a new scheme, however we have felt so supported by Dee, Gemma and Laurence. The children have been great, support and outreach sessions are in place, 10 working days is enough time to get know them and support them with a planned move. Our current placement is being supported to return to his extended family, both children who have come through the HUB so far have had positive outcomes and as a foster carer this has felt really rewarding. ”

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If you are interested in becoming an Emergency Foster Carer, please contact your Supervising Social Worker in the first instance.

For more general information on the Emergency Foster Carer Hub please contact Gemma Moloney or Duygu Yildiz.

Gemma.moloney@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Duygu.yildiz@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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