

Recruiting now for foster carers in Hertfordshire



"It is the best feeling in the world, we love it. It's changed our lives for the better."

Dave and Helen, Hertfordshire foster carers

Are you looking for a more fulfilling career?

There are approximately **950 children and young people in care in Hertfordshire** and many of these children need the love and support of a foster family.

If you are aged over 21, have a spare room at home, and space in your heart, then fostering could be for you.

When you choose to foster with us, you'll receive generous pay and allowances for each child, exceptional training and 24/7 local support right from the very start.

Get in touch with our friendly team today and we'll help you decide if fostering is right for you.

FOSTERWITHUS

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fosternow



@hertfordshirefostering



@HCCFosterAdopt

In partnership with



Stonewall



Hertfordshire

What is fostering

Foster carers provide homes for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers, who are unable to live with their own families for various reasons.

Fostering is both a challenging and rewarding job. Our foster carers are important members of a team, working to ensure each child reaches his or her full potential. They share the responsibility of the children they look after with the parents and the local authority.

Types of fostering

Fostering can be flexible and we'll do what we can to make fostering work for you. There are different types of fostering as children in care have varying situations and needs.

Some children may need to be looked after for a single weekend and others may need a home for a longer period.

We will help foster carers choose the right type of placements and timescales for them.

You can foster

There are so many myths about fostering that prevent people from enquiring as they feel they will not be eligible.

We have carers from all walks of life, including all ethnic groups, sexualities and ages, but they all have one thing in common - a passion for helping children and young people thrive.

**Please contact our team on
0800 917 0925 if you have
any questions regarding
your eligibility.**



Your fostering journey

Becoming a foster carer – what to expect and when

1



From enquiry to approval

– This usually takes between 4 and 6 months.

2



Enquiry – You can contact us by email, telephone or through our website for an informal chat with our friendly team. We will ask a few questions to help you and us decide if fostering is the right career for you.

3



Initial visit – A member of the team will visit you at your home, giving you the chance to ask more questions and answer ours. These visits are currently being held online due to COVID-19.

4



Checks – We will complete a number of checks including the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), and if appropriate, request an early medical.

5



Skills to foster training – You will be invited to virtual training which takes place over a 2 week period.

6



Registration of interest – We will ask you to complete and return this by the end of Skills to foster training. This will be your consent for us to request any references we need.

7



Assigned a social worker – After completion of training, you will be assigned a social worker to begin your assessment.

8



Assessment – This will be completed, usually in 16 weeks.

10



Approval – You will be notified of your approval within 7-10 working days, and you will then work with the team to be matched with a foster child.

9



Fostering panel – You will attend this meeting with your assessing social worker. The panel is made up of various professionals who will make a recommendation in respect of your approval.



"You're never on your own, there's always support there for any decisions you're finding difficult."

Ed and Jools, Hertfordshire foster carers

Training and support

When you choose to foster with us, you'll receive 24/7 local support every step of the way. We provide local training sessions and offer you the chance to participate in our fostering forums where you can share experience and receive support from other foster carers.

Pay and allowances

Foster carers receive a weekly payment for their skills plus a weekly allowance for each child they look after. The payments foster carers receive are dependent on the age and number of children they look after and their skills and experience. You can view our current rates of pay on our website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fosternow

To help cover the costs of looking after a child, you will also receive:

- a generous mileage allowance
- setting up fee for furniture and equipment
- two weeks additional summer payments
- holiday and birthday allowance
- initial clothing and school uniform allowance
- festivities allowance
- discounts online and in high street stores



"I believe that every young person, however they come into the world, deserves an opportunity to have a family life."

Ellin, Hertfordshire foster carer

Contact us

To find out more about fostering, please call our team on **0800 917 0925** for an informal chat or email us on fostering.recruitment@hertfordshire.gov.uk