

# Our Fostering Guide

All about fostering,  
our agency and how we  
make children matter.

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[fostercarematters.org.uk](https://fostercarematters.org.uk)





“

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a child.

Forest E. Witcraft

”

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# Thank you, for contacting Foster Care Matters!

**We know that thinking about fostering is a big decision and you are probably doing a lot of research right now. We are so pleased that you have chosen to contact us.**

This guide is to provide you with some of the basic information about our organisation, the fostering task and the support we offer.

We can't include everything in this guide, but we hope it helps you gather the information that you need at this stage to help you decide if fostering is right for you and your family, and if Foster Care Matters is the right agency for you.

We would then love to arrange a visit to you at home to chat through things in more detail.

We are a new organisation but offer years of experience in the children's sector and we just can't wait to start building our Foster Care Matters family.





# About Foster Care Matters

**Launched in 2024, we are a not-for-profit fostering charity making children matter.**

We are part of the Adoption Matters family, a children's charity and well-established voluntary adoption agency with over 76 years of experience in the children's sector and the ONLY adoption agency in the North of England rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted five times in a row.

Our experienced team has witnessed a crisis in foster care not seen in the UK for many years, which coupled with the current cost of living crisis, is only looking to deepen.

At the height of the crisis, deepened during the Covid-19 pandemic, reports showed that large commercial fostering agencies owned by private and venture capital companies, made hundreds of millions of pounds in profits for their shareholders as local authorities struggled to meet the demand in placement needs.

As a children's charity with children's needs at our heart, we wanted to be an organisation that steps in to help the foster care crisis. Foster Care Matters was launched in early 2024, a not-for-profit fostering charity. We are committed to re-invest back into our service to offer quality support and ongoing training to our foster families, to enable them to help children really matter.

## Our Values and Mission

A world in which every child feels safe and supported by nurturing carers who encourage and enable them to reach their full potential.

**Foster Care Matters is a not-for-profit fostering agency, making children matter. We aim:**

- To provide safe, caring and supportive homes for children and young people requiring foster care.
- To develop a supportive and nurturing fostering service that treats its foster parents with respect and understanding with an emphasis on wellbeing.
- To be a driver of positive change in the fostering sector through excellent practice and collaboration with other not-for-profit services to increase the number and quality of foster placements available to Local Authorities outside the profit-based sector.
- To offer trauma-informed support and training to our foster parents to help children recover from their trauma and past losses and achieve their potential.



## We offer a therapeutic approach

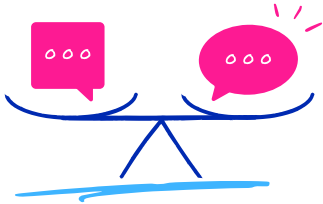
With dedicated support to our foster parents  
across the North West.

Our experienced team will guide you through your fostering journey and be by your side every step of the way.

As well as offering generous weekly allowances and regular support from your own dedicated supervising social worker, as a Foster Care Matters foster parent you will also have access to The Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support, an established and recognised centre in the North West, offering innovative, bespoke, ongoing support from a multi-disciplined team including occupational therapists and trained therapeutic social workers.

Just as no two children are the same, neither are foster parents, but they all have one thing in common - a passion and strong desire to help make a difference to vulnerable children and young people.

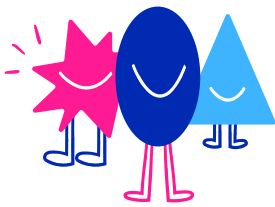
# Our Values



## Honest and fair

We undertake to treat every case fairly on its individual merits. Foster Care Matters aims to be honest and realistic in all our communications.

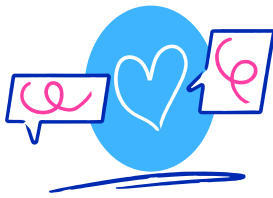
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## Inclusive

We strive to ensure equality of opportunity, both for our foster families and amongst our Staff and Trustees, regardless of gender, race, religion, culture, heritage, age, disability or sexuality.

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## Flexible

We aim to continually develop and improve our services and increase engagement with our service users, using their feedback and suggestions to inform future developments.

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## Ethical

We work to high ethical standards including: good communication, transparency, honesty, accountability, professionalism, trust and mutual respect.

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## Celebrating difference

We work within a culture of respect and acceptance, treating everyone who engages with the agency fairly, professionally and with respect to people's right to confidentiality.

# What is fostering?

Fostering is a broad term which means that a child is living with a fostering family because they are unable to live with their own birth family.

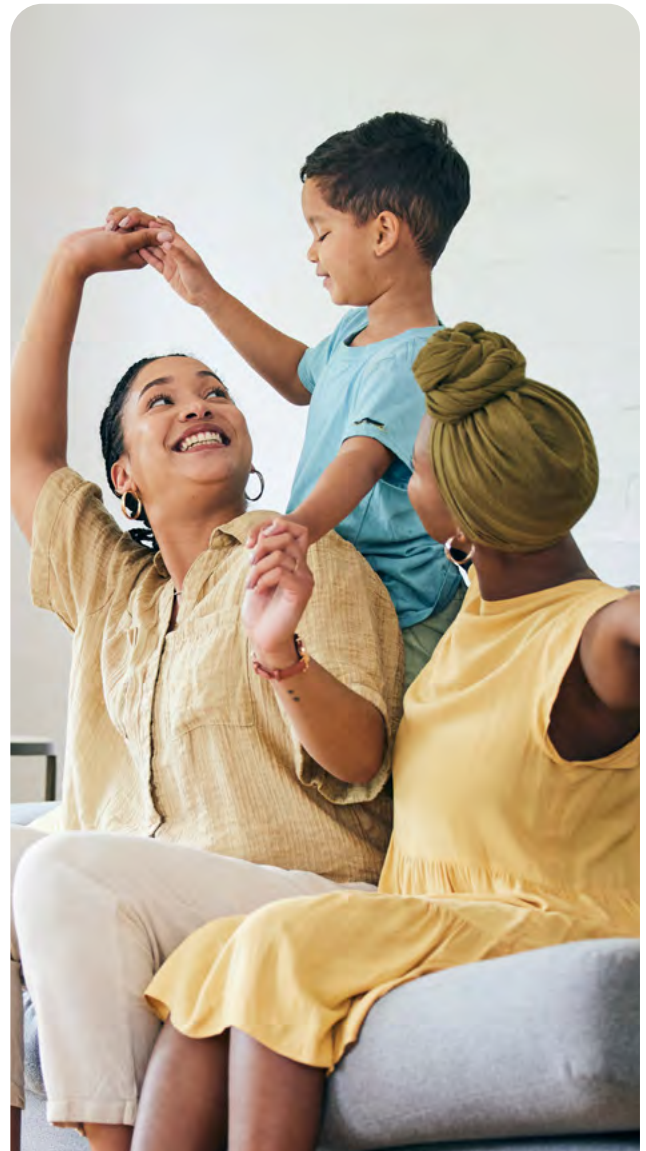
There are many different reasons why a child enters the care system and may need a foster parent. Some of the most common include: abuse or neglect, or a risk of abuse or neglect, a child's parents being unable to look after them for many different reasons or a family crisis or breakdown that puts the child at significant risk of harm.

At these times, local authorities and courts may decide to place the child or young person in foster care. Fostering and adoption are very different. When you adopt a child, you become their legal guardian and you're responsible for them just as you would for your birth child. With fostering, legal responsibility remains with birth parents and local authorities for a child or young person. However, they would delegate authority to make certain day to day decisions to the foster parent and will specify these.

They need foster parents who can offer them a safe and nurturing home. They need foster parents who can help support them through this very difficult journey, help them understand the situation, work closely with many different professionals, show empathy to their birth family and above all, offer them patience, nurture and love.

## **Put yourself in their shoes, how would you feel?**

Your whole world changed in an instant and you may not be sure why, a strange bed, a stranger giving you your tea – children need foster parents to be patient and allow a child to heal. No matter what their situation was at home, **it was their home, their family.**



**Nearly 70,000 children live with almost 55,000 foster families across the UK each day.**

**This is nearly three-quarters of the over 98,000 children in care away from home on any one day in the UK. Every year thousands of new foster families are needed.**

**In the North West, there is a huge need for foster parents who can care for children of all ages and backgrounds.**



# Types of fostering

**Every child who needs a foster family is unique, with their own individual needs and life story.**

Our foster parents support children in foster care and provide them with a safe, caring, stable family home for as long as they need it – this could be anything from a few days or weeks to months or years.

## We offer the following different types of fostering placements:

### Sleepover fostering

All Foster Care Matters foster parents will have 16 sleepover care nights every year. Sleepover fostering is often referred to as respite care or short breaks but we like to use the term sleepover as they are a very normal part of childhood and teen years. We know that sometimes, foster parents may need regular breaks to support them in their role.

Sleepover care can prove helpful in supporting fostering families that care for children with a range of needs. With all of our work, we will make sure that all sleepover care plans are in the best interests of the child or young person.

### Short-term fostering

The often misleading title of this type of fostering involves caring for a child or young person on a temporary basis for a few days, weeks, months or even a couple of years. A child or young person will be placed in a 'short term' placement whilst professionals work together on a long term plan. This could be returning home to birth family or a long term fostering placement or adoption.

### Long-term fostering

Long-term fostering is caring for a child or young person on a permanent basis until they are ready to live independently.

Foster parents providing long-term foster care may look after a child until the age of 18, but it can be longer if the young person is still in further education under a 'Staying Put' agreement. Long-term fostering may be instead required when a child or young person is unable to return to live safely with their birth family or extended family and when adoption is deemed unsuitable. This could be because of a child's age and their ongoing significant attachment relationships with their birth family, which would make adoption an inappropriate long term plan for them.

**There are other types of fostering including Emergency, Parent and Child and Remand, currently, we are only recruiting foster parents for long, short term or sleepover fostering but we will adapt to meet the needs of the children so this may change in the future.**







## Can you foster?

Foster parents never like to be called heroes but without them, thousands of children and young people would not flourish and achieve the great things they are able to, every single year.

Children and young people need foster parents as diverse as themselves, people of all ages, from different backgrounds with a wide range of life experiences.

### You Can Foster with Foster Care Matters if you:

- Are single, divorced or living with a partner
- Are already a parent or have never parented – having some experience of caring for children is beneficial
- Are Heterosexual or LGBTQ+,
- Are of any ethnicity, culture or religion
- Have a disability or physical illness – a medical will be undertaken to ensure that fostering is compatible with your condition
- If you live with or have previously lived with any mental health issues – fostering is challenging, a medical will be undertaken to ensure that fostering will not exacerbate any issues you may have.

- Are working, unemployed or retired
- Are renting or own your home – you need to provide a child with their own bedroom
- Are able to work with a wide variety of professionals supporting the child
- Have empathy for birth families
- If you don't drive but have good access to public transport
- Have the passion and desire to help a child really matter!

You also don't need to have children of your own or a wealth of childcare experience. What you do need is to be able to offer support, nurture, patience, resilience and have the space (you will need to be able to provide a child with their own bedroom) to care for a child or children who are unable to live with their own birth families.



# Why choose Foster Care Matters?

As a not-for-profit, independent fostering agency, we re-invest back into our services to offer high quality support and ongoing therapeutic training.

- We offer bespoke support for our foster parents and the child/ren they care for. After all, each child and foster parent are unique in their own way
- Therapeutic Preparation to Foster Training
- Access to our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support
- 24/7, 365 days a year cover, we are here for you when you need us
- Regular supervision
- Therapeutic Parenting Training - 10 sessions per year
- Comprehensive Induction Training programme
- Competitive fostering allowances
- Sleepover care
- Peer support
- Social events
- Refer a friend payments



We make  
children matter

# Our therapeutic approach

## Our therapeutic approach runs through everything we do

Foster Care Matters recognises that children and young people coming into foster care with us will have experienced different levels of developmental trauma.

These can be described as ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which include abuse or neglect in their birth families, losses of significant people, including the loss of their families through coming into care, and potentially losses of other foster families when they have moved placements. The number of ACES they have experienced has a cumulative impact on both their physical and emotional health.

### Transformative Therapeutic Parenting

At Foster Care Matters, we know that using therapeutic parenting techniques can support children to begin to recover from their previous trauma, manage their anxiety and achieve their potential in life. Our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support has vast experience of supporting adopters over the years to develop their parenting in ways that supports children most effectively who have suffered past trauma and loss.

They will provide a therapeutic parenting programme when foster parents are newly approved and monthly support sessions on therapeutic strategies such as, parenting based on knowledge of brain development and on Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE), importance of play, techniques such as Theraplay and providing sensory processing support, etc.



# The fostering process

We have detailed below our fostering process which is covered in two stages. The fostering journey starts when you first consider fostering and if it is right for you and your family.

## 1 Enquiry

You are here! Jo or Charlotte, our dedicated enquiry advisers, will contact you on the number or email you have provided to arrange the best time to talk with you about your enquiry and answer any queries you may have. If they and you agree to proceed then they will pass your enquiry on to a Social Worker who will arrange to visit you in your home.

## 2 Initial Visit to you at home

One of our social workers will visit you in your home to discuss fostering in more depth. This is an opportunity for you to explore further if fostering is right for you and also for us to assess whether there is anything at this point, that would prevent you from making an application to foster. Transparency and openness is an important part of our ethos. We encourage partnership working with our families and need you to be open with us too. If you have any worries or concerns, please ask us. During this visit we will need to look around your home to ensure that it is suitable for fostering and see the bedroom/s you plan to use for a foster child. We will tell you anything that stands out to us as something that needs to be addressed were you to proceed with the process. Our social worker will complete an Initial Visit report and will discuss their recommendations with a manager.

## 3 Application Form (Stage 1)

Once we are agreed that you will proceed with your application to foster with Foster Care Matters, we will send you an Application Pack to complete. This pack includes an application form, a DBS form, a Consent to Enquiries authorisation form and a fostering medical form. We need this information to be completed to begin the process to become a foster parent.

Don't worry though, we will arrange to visit you to collect the forms and support you with completing anything you are unsure of. At the same time we will verify your ID documents for your DBS check. Once we receive your Application Form, this is the start of the Stage 1 Process of a Fostering application. Dependent on your situation we may

decide to start Stage 2 alongside Stage 1. We will send you some homework to complete about your life story and your support network to help you start thinking about your home-based assessment.

## 4 Checks/references (Stage 1)

Once we have your application form and signed consent to enquiries, our admin team will begin requesting your references and completing the other checks such as DBS, local authority, employment references and your personal references. We will also be applying for your DBS checks and you will be prompted to book in with your GP for your fostering medical. If there is any problem with any of the checks at this stage we will talk to you about this. If any of the information gathered at Stage 1 of the assessment process causes us to stop the assessment and you disagree then you have a right to complain to the agency but you do not have the right of appeal to the Independent Review Mechanism for Fostering.

## 5 Preparation training (Stage 1)

You will be invited to attend our Fostering Preparation Training course with a group of other prospective foster parents. The preparation training will explore with you your motivation to foster and will give you an overview about what is involved in being a foster parent. The course includes information about the children who need to be fostered, and the differences between being a foster parent and parenting your own children. You may complete this course before you start your stage 2 assessment or whilst this is ongoing. You must complete the course before your assessment is completed for panel.

## 6 Home Based Assessment (Stage 2)

Following receiving all the information that we need to complete the checks and after booking you a place on the next preparation training course, we will allocate you to a social worker who will complete your fostering assessment. This starts Stage 2 of the fostering assessment process and your home-based assessment will begin. This will consist of pre-planned visits to you at your home for up to two hours at a time. We will cover your childhood, your relationship history, your experiences of parenting and being parented and what you can bring to the fostering task. We will also identify what further training and support you will need. We take this stage at your pace, but we will aim to complete it within 4 months. If we have any issues to raise, we will discuss these with you.

## At ANY stage of the process

It is important to note that at any time during the Stage 1 or Stage 2 assessment you, or we, may decide that fostering is not right for you. This could be due to something that arises in the assessment process, for example, changing life circumstances or other concerns that arise that lead you, or us, to decide that now isn't the right time. We will always discuss this with you.

### 7 Panel

All reports are submitted to an independent fostering panel who will consider all the information provided and make a recommendation about whether you are suitable to foster. Panel is made up of people who have a range of different personal and professional experiences for example, education, health, care experience, and adoption. There also always has to be a social worker on panel.

You will be invited to attend panel alongside your social worker. Again, if we have any issues to raise, we will arrange to discuss these with you prior to your attendance.

### 8 Approval

Foster Care Matters' Agency Decision Maker will make a decision based on the social worker's assessment and the panel's recommendation, whether to approve you or not as suitable to foster. This completes Stage 2 of the fostering application process. In the event you do not agree with the Agency Decision, you have the right to appeal to the agency or alternatively the Independent Review Mechanism, we will give you full details of the appeals procedure.

### 9 Induction

Once you receive the news that your approval has been decided by our Agency Decision Maker and you are an approved foster parent, we will arrange an induction with you to give you the basics to get you ready to receive a child. The induction will cover such topics as your Safeguarding responsibilities, Reporting and Recording, Introduction to our Charms database and how matching works. As part of this induction you will have a session with CFAS which will help you start to build your therapeutic parenting tool kit.

### 10 Family finding and Matching

We will work hard together to start looking for a child or children whose needs we believe you can best meet. This is where our expertise really shines. We have extensive experience of family finding and ensuring we find the right family for the right child. We will do our utmost to obtain as full and accurate information as possible about the child/ren that may be a match for your family. Sometimes there can be limited information if the local authority have not worked with the child's family for very long, but we try to ask as many questions as possible and encourage you to ask your questions too. It is really important that we

work together to get this right for the children and for you. It is very important that you say if you feel a particular child or sibling group is not the right match for you.

### 11 Foster Home (Placement) Planning Meeting

When you agree to a match where possible a plan will be made for the child to meet you. However it may be that the child needs to move in an emergency, so there is a chance that they may move to you that day. We will be there to support you for this and for the Foster Home (Placement) Planning Meeting, which will take place shortly after the child comes to live with you if not before. This is where you will be given more information about the child's routines, likes and dislikes and dates and times of 'family time' with their family and the plans going forward.

### 12 The Foster Child in your Home

There are lots of meetings when a foster child comes to live with you. There must be a review of the plans for the child within 1 month of them moving to you and there may also be a meeting with School known as a Personal Education Plan (PEP). Your Supervising Social Worker will support you with these meetings and will answer your questions and help you with any issues that arise. It is important that you keep in regular contact with your supervising social worker and make them aware of any issues or concerns.

### 13 Support

Alongside the monthly supervision and support sessions with your supervising social worker you will be provided with a range of training and support from our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support. Our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support offers a wealth of support including therapeutic & attachment training, training for schools, foster parent support groups and activity days for the whole family. As part of the matching and foster home planning process, ongoing support will be discussed and agreed. New foster parents will be provided with an Early Support Plan to help them through the early stages of a child coming to live with them and we will also consider whether further, more tailored support is needed in relation to meeting the specific needs of the children being placed. Support is offered through all stages of the process from enquiry, to your approval as foster parents and beyond through training, sessions and where required, specific support.

# Our support

## We know that ongoing training and support are vital for any successful fostering placement.

Our families tell us that's the main reason they chose Foster Care Matters. As well as the support that starts as soon as you contact us, to guide you through your enquiry and assessment, we are committed to offering ongoing training and support throughout your fostering journey with us.

### During your fostering assessment:

#### Allocated Assessing Social Worker

You will be allocated your own assessing social worker who will be with you throughout your assessment journey.

#### Therapeutic Preparation to Foster Training

An essential part of your journey to becoming a foster parent is our Therapeutic Preparation to Foster training course. This training is a mandatory part of your assessment process; if you have a partner living with you, you'll both need to complete the course. We also welcome and encourage adult children that are living with you to attend. The course is held over at a venue in the North West and is designed to give you an introduction to fostering and therapeutic parenting.

Led by our experienced Fostering Service Manager, the course helps you to understand the needs of the children in care and looks at some of the necessary skills and knowledge needed to enable you to foster, keep the children in your care safe and help them thrive.

Please don't worry or be daunted by this training if you haven't attended any formal training before or have attended training for a while. We will guide you through it and you will be together with other prospective foster parents, a mixture of people from all walks of life. Our therapeutic preparing to foster training course is for you and your family to learn as much about the fostering task as possible to make sure you are fully informed and equip you with the skills and knowledge required to care for vulnerable children and young people.

### Once you are an approved Foster Care Matters foster parent

Training and development will continue throughout your fostering journey. Foster parents, just like all parents and professionals who work with children and young people, are continually learning, developing, and learning new techniques, from new research and studies.

We offer a wide range of training opportunities with a rolling programme of courses on offer to you through our wide network of training providers and partners. You may also identify areas of learning that may interest you and help you with the fostering task and we ask our foster parents to feedback to us to help develop our future training programmes.

### Our support offer includes:

#### Regular supervision

From your own Supervising Social Worker, monthly. This is tailored to each foster family and situation, if you need us more, we are flexible but this is our minimum offer to all new foster parents approved.

#### 24/7, 365 days a year cover

We are here, when you need us. At the end of the phone, a video call or a home visit, there will be an experienced social worker, trained in therapeutic parenting, on out-of-hours call, evenings and weekends, 365 days a year.

#### Induction training

Once you are approved as a foster parent and during your first year, there are then a number of topics that will be covered in your induction training, an example of the training is:

- Safeguarding Children
- Health and Safety
- Paediatric First Aid
- Equality & Diversity and Cultural Competence
- Therapeutic Parenting
- Child Development and much more..

Our families advise that the training they receive is just one of the benefits of becoming a foster parent with Foster Care Matters and gives them great additional insight and knowledge into a wide range of topics.



# Therapeutic Parenting

## Training Sessions 10 per year

At Foster Care Matters, we know that using therapeutic parenting techniques can support children to begin to recover from their previous trauma, manage their anxiety and achieve their potential in life.

Our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support has vast experience of supporting families over the years to develop their parenting in ways that supports children most effectively who have suffered past trauma and loss. They will provide a therapeutic parenting programme when foster parents are newly approved and monthly support sessions on therapeutic strategies such as, Parenting based on knowledge of brain development and on Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE), importance of play, techniques such as Theraplay and providing Sensory processing support. Our therapeutic approach runs through everything we do and is key in helping children to reduce the impact of their ACES, learn how to trust, feel calm enough to access their education and achieve physical and emotional wellbeing as well as achieving their life goals.

### Foster Care Matters Natters Newsletter

Our regular e-newsletter sharing our latest news, events and hopefully some of your stories too! We also hope to develop a Children & Young People Natters Newsletter too.

### FosterTalk Membership

As a Foster Care Matters foster parent, you will have full membership to FosterTalk giving you access to their network of experts, and allowing you to join their 40,000+ foster parent community.

**As we grow our Foster Care Matters Family and welcome more foster parents to our charity, we will enhance our support offer to include:**

### Sleepover care

All Foster Care Matters foster parents will have 16 sleepover care nights every year. Sleepover care is often referred to as respite care. We know that sometimes, foster parents may need regular breaks to support them in their role.

Sleepover care can prove helpful in supporting fostering families that care for children with a range of needs. We will look at your own support networks during assessment and discuss sleepover care arrangements with you. With all of our work, we will make sure that all sleepover care plans are in the best interests of the child or young person.

At the start of our Foster Care Matters journey, whilst we build our Foster Care Matters family, we may not be able to offer sleepover care with other registered foster parents so we may look at your in-house support network, but will discuss this with you.

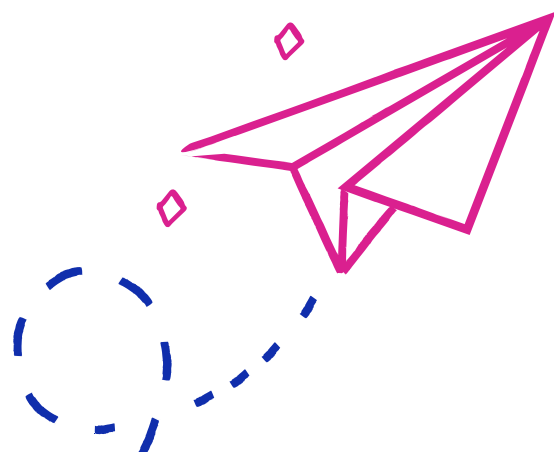
### Peer support

Regular support groups with other foster parents and our experienced team. Get together to hear all the latest updates in fostering and a chance for a catch up with other foster parents. Whilst we grow the Foster Care Matters family in 2024, we want to develop this with you, our new foster parents.

### Social events and activities

Fun events to suit our foster parents and the children and young people in your care. Whilst we grow the Foster Care Matters family in 2024, we want to develop this with you and will ask for your feedback on what to include in our social calendar to support you and the children and young people in your care, we hope to develop a social calendar that suits everyone's needs.

Some of our events offered by our Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support have included forest school sessions, therapeutic horse riding and pony grooming, rock climbing sessions, and a children and young people choir - to name a few.





# Our Centre for Fostering & Adoption Support (CfAS)

As an approved Foster Care Matters foster parent, you will have access to the Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support. This is a well-established service supporting adoption, permanency and fostering. The centre was founded in 2014 initially supporting adopters, adopted adults and birth families and expanded to meet the needs of permanency through kinship, foster care and special guardianship in 2019.

The multi-disciplinary team, including therapeutic social workers, occupational therapists, and therapists, offer a range of services for adopters, foster parents, special guardians, kinship carers, care experienced children, young people and adopted adults. As an approved Foster Care Matters foster carer, you can access a range of online training videos, titles include:

- Neurodiversity and Autism
- Understanding and Managing Child to Parent Violence and Aggression
- Sensory Modulation
- Parenting with PACE
- Sleep Issues

## The Centre for Fostering and Adoption Support

A unique support and therapy service supporting adoption, permanency and fostering

You will also have access to the live monthly calendar of webinars, titles include:

- Self-esteem and Well-being
- Parenting Siblings
- Resilience
- Sensory Processing
- Parenting Teenagers
- Attachment and Education

The Centre offers a variety of groups and activities for children and young people and we are developing groups for foster families.

Our parent charity, Adoption Matters, also have their own in-house therapy service that provides a personalised therapeutic intervention based on a structured assessment and can work in partnership with local authorities' on bespoke packages of support.

# Our allowances

As a children's charity, we are honest and transparent when discussing our fostering allowances for our foster parents, there are no hidden surprises.

Our ethos at Foster Care Matters is making children matter and re-investing back into our services.

We also believe in a fair and clear allowance structure, our allowances are:  
**For children aged 0-10 years**  
£430.00 per child, per week  
**For children aged 11-18 years**  
£460.00 per child/young person, per week

## Other payments

In addition to the above regular payments, Foster Care Matters foster parents also receive a number of other payments throughout the year. Below are some examples of the additional payments:

**Summer Holidays allowance:**  
£50 per week, per child/young person for six weeks.

**Religious festival allowance:**  
£150 per child/young person.

**Birthday allowance:**  
£150 per child/young person.

**Sleepover rate:**  
16 nights per year which foster carers can either take or continue to be paid for.

**Refer a friend payments:**  
£250.00 once they have been recommended for approval at panel and the Agency Decision Maker has made the final decision and a further £250.00 once they complete their first annual review.  
£125 for sleepover only foster parents.

## Do I pay tax?

Foster parent households are entitled to a tax exemption of up to £18,140\* per household and tax relief for every week you foster a child. This is known as qualifying care relief. Further guidance is available through HMRC or Tax Specialists. Foster parents also qualify for tax relief for every week they care for a foster child. This is £375 per week if they care for a child under 11 and £450 if they care for a child over 11. This tax allowance applies per child per week.

\*Correct as January 2024 see guidance website for further details:  
<https://www.gov.uk/support-for-foster-parents/tax-arrangements>

## Refer a friend scheme

There is nothing like a recommendation from someone you know and trust. Our foster parents already know what it takes to be a good foster parent and how our ongoing support and training helps them. This is why they can also play a very important role in helping us to grow our Foster Care Matters family.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a Foster Care Matters foster parent, let us know. As a thank you to you, we offer a refer-a-friend payment of £250.00 once they are approved at panel and a further £250.00 once they complete their first review. This payment will be £125.00 for an approved foster parent offering sleepover care only.

As a charity, we have to carefully decide and plan every penny we spend on our recruitment but we feel strongly about rewarding our foster parents for helping spread the Foster Care Matters word, and there is nothing like hearing it from people who are fostering right now and are happy to recommend their agency. After all, who recommends a bad service?

## Transfer to Foster Care Matters

We welcome any approved foster parents registered with another fostering agency who wish to transfer from other agencies and join the Foster Care Matters Family.

All foster parents have the right to freedom of transferring or moving between fostering services, with or without a child or young person in placement. We will follow The Fostering Networks Transfer Protocol for England, working in agreement with your current fostering agency. We will be clear and transparent with you and your agency throughout this process.

**As a children's charity, Foster Care Matters ethos is to re-invest back into our fostering service to enable us to enhance our support offer to our foster parents and the children they care for.**

Therefore, we do not offer any transfer fees/ payments for transferring foster parents.

## Thank you for your enquiry!

If you would like to proceed to the next step of finding out more, contact us for a chat and/or to arrange a home visit.

However, if you have some queries you would like answering first, contact our enquiry advisers, **Charlotte and Jo:**



**Freephone:**  
**0300 123 1061**



**Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm**

There is no such thing as silly question and we will be happy to answer any queries you may have. We look forward to hearing from you again soon and **thank you again for your interest.**



[fostercarematters.org.uk](https://fostercarematters.org.uk)

 [fostercaremattersuk](https://www.facebook.com/fostercaremattersuk)

 [fostercaremattersuk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fostercaremattersuk)

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Members of:



A member of the Adoption Matters Family

