

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.

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

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.

“Last year one of the children I very first fostered brought his own children and wife to see me, I can’t tell you how I felt seeing him sitting there with his own lovely family and seeing what he has made of his life. I wish I had the words to tell you how I feel knowing I had a part to play in all this.”

Vera, aged 67
currently fostering a teenager



I am interested in more information about Foster a Future and I would like someone to contact me for an informal discussion about Short-break Fostering.

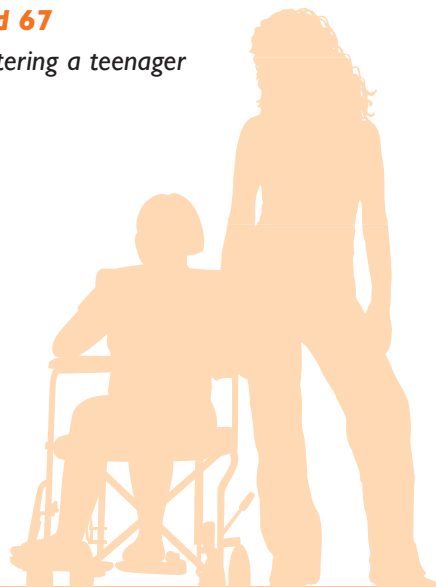
NAME:

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
Web: www.newcastle.gov.uk

All pictures posed by models.

Short-break Fostering





Foster a Future

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 birth families. It could be that they have been abused or neglected. Or their birth 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 behavioural problem which their birth parents 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.

Short-break foster care

Short-break foster carers help look after children and young people who are being cared for by other foster carers.

The carers have the children with them for a few days, a week or even just overnight.

Short-break care for children with disabilities

We also provide short-break foster care for families with children with disabilities. The children or young people spend most of their time at home with their families but they also have short stays with foster carers - anything from a few hours to a few days. This gives them and their families a break.

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 for short-break carers can be as much as £55 per day depending on the age and needs of the child.

