

More information

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, please contact:

Oldham Fostering Service
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Oldham Fostering Service has been accredited as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

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many ways to foster... one caring home

Foster a child – and see the difference you can make



Fostering is helping a child or young person by looking after them in your own home, at a time when their own family is not able to. Children need fostering for all sorts of reasons and for different lengths of time.

Different types of fostering:

Emergency fostering

Providing a child with a place to go immediately, no matter what hour of a day or night.

Long-term fostering

Where a child or young person who cannot return home lives with the same foster carer/s until they reach adulthood and are ready to live independently.

Short-term fostering

Looking after a child or young person for anything from a few days to a couple of years.

Oldham Family Link Scheme

Providing weekend / overnight / holiday stays for children with disabilities in need of a break from home.

Who can foster?

You can foster if you:

- are over 21 years old;
- have a spare bedroom/s;
- can provide a safe and stable home;
- have the time to care for a child or young person; and
- have the ability to work as part of a team with the child's own family, Social Workers and support services.

Don't worry, there is no such thing as a 'typical' foster carer. You may be single, in a relationship, married or divorced, may or may not have children of your own, be employed or unemployed, or from any ethnic background and regardless of your sexuality.

Who are the children who need foster care?

The children and young people in foster care come from all walks of life and are of all ages, from babies through to teenagers. They are likely to have experienced difficult and sad times in their lives.

We are especially keen to recruit foster carers willing to care for:

- older children (including teenagers);
- children and young people on a long-term basis;
- children in sibling groups;
- children with disabilities; and
- children from ethnic minorities.

What support would I receive?

- Competitive payments and allowances (up to £25,000 pa).
- A dedicated social worker who will regularly visit you.
- Ongoing training, including NVQ Level 3.
- Regular newsletters and support groups.
- Support from the Life Chances Team to meet the educational, psychological, emotional and health of the child or young person.

Fostering step by step

Becoming a newly approved foster carer can take about six months, from application to approval.

Although the process may seem daunting at first, your fostering team worker will provide you with help and support every step of the way.

- Step 1** Your initial enquiry
- Step 2** Information pack and Registration of Interest Form
- Step 3** A home visit by a fostering team member
- Step 4** Recommendation to attend preparation training
- Step 5** Application form and consent to conduct background checks and obtain references
- Step 6** Home study assessment
- Step 7** Oldham Fostering Panel and approval
- Step 8** Placement/s