

CAN I FOSTER?

If my own children live at home? **Yes**

If I don't own my own home?
You can be a home owner, or living in rented accommodation.

If I am in the military? **Yes**

Do I get paid?
All foster carers receive an allowance to cover the cost of caring for a child in their home.

If I am over 60?
There is not an age limit to fostering, as long as your physically and emotionally well.

If I am in a same sex relationship? **Yes**

If I am single? **Yes**

If I have a dog?
Yes, if it's not on the dangerous dogs list. However you will be required to fill in a questionnaire about your dog.

If I don't have a spare room?
No, you need to have a spare room.

GET IN TOUCH

Find out what Suffolk's Fostering Service can offer you as a foster carer, including financial benefits, emotional support and training.

Call 01473 264800

Email fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk

Visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

f Suffolk's Fostering Service

@suff_fostadopt



HE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS. IT WAS JUST REALLY FANTASTIC TO WATCH

Lynda, foster carer from Mildenhall

Suffolk Fostering & Adoption

Suffolk County Council

EVERY CHILD HAS A PAST, I GIVE THEM A FUTURE

Sammy, foster carer from Lowestoft

We need foster carers for Suffolk children

FOSTER NOW

www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Fostering means providing a home and caring for a child or young person who can't live with their own family for various reasons.

Who we are?

Suffolk Fostering Service is part of Suffolk County Council. As a local authority we are responsible for more than 800 children in care in Suffolk. Our goal is to secure families for Suffolk children, either on a short-term or permanent basis.

Why become a foster carer?

Fostering is an incredibly rewarding journey. As a foster carer you can make a real difference to a child's life, providing them with the nurturing home life they need to give them every chance of a happy childhood and to succeed in life. It's a big commitment to become a foster carer but it is extremely worthwhile. We don't need perfect families, we need real people with real personalities and a sense of fun. We're looking for a passion and an ability to provide children in our care with love, patience and a sense of belonging.



WE REALLY ENJOYED OUR KIDS AND NOW WANTED TO SEE IF WE COULD FOSTER

Sharon, foster carer from Ipswich

TYPES OF FOSTERING

There are many different types of foster care. Our children are all individual, as is the care they need.

Short Term Care

Some foster carers will look after children on a short-term basis, until the child can return home or move on to a permanent placement. The time a child will spend in short term foster care can vary though it will usually be for several months or years. These children and young people need nurturing care together with help to understand their experiences and the uncertainty of their future.

Short Break Care / Respite Care

A short break carer provides respite to other carers for holiday periods and/or weekends. Alternatively, you and your children can have respite for holiday periods and/or weekends provided by a short break carer. To be a short break carer, you would often need to be available for a week or two at a time. This is particularly important during school holidays, alongside regular weekends. Short break care is often for older children and those with more complex needs.

Permanent Care

Many children who are not able to live with their birth families will need a new permanent family. Some foster carers care for children into adulthood and see them as a member of their family for life.

LINK Care Scheme

Link carers provide overnight stays and day care in their own home for disabled children, young people, and their families.



IF PEOPLE WANT TO FOSTER, THEN BEING A RESPITE CARER IS A GOOD PLACE TO START

Bob, foster carer from Diss

Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE)

PACE foster carers are carers that offer overnight care to a child or young person who has been arrested by the police. For more information about caring for this group of young people, please read our PACE leaflet or visit our website.

Staying Put

The Suffolk Staying Put Scheme promotes young people remaining with their foster family beyond the age of 18, until they're more ready for independence. This is particularly important for young people with additional needs.

Parent and Child

Some young parents, and their very young children, benefit from living with a foster family together for a short period of time. This is called parent and child fostering.

Fostering Teenagers

Over half of the children in care in Suffolk are aged 11 or over, yet fewer people come forward to offer to care for them. Therefore, many teenagers may not be living with Suffolk carers, and will be away from friends, school and their local community. Caring for this age group can indeed be very rewarding and stereotypes are generally misleading.