

Foster for Coventry



Coventry needs more foster carers for Coventry children

Thank you for showing an interest in fostering for Coventry City Council.

We hope you find this booklet helpful in providing you with the information you need to consider whether you would like to apply to join our team of foster carers. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or need any further information and we will be very happy to help.

Fostering for Coventry City Council means you are providing Coventry children with a safe, positive and nurturing home whilst decisions are being made about their future. The essential work carried out by Coventry foster carers means that children can get the stability, support and care they need, at what can be a challenging time in their lives.

Foster carers, therefore, make a real difference to the lives of Coventry children.

There are **different types of fostering** which are explored in this brochure and Coventry has a need for foster carers for all types of fostering. If you aren't sure what each type means, or what may work for you and your situation, please get in touch and we can discuss these in more detail.

Like most local authorities, Coventry has a particular need for foster carers who could, with our support, care for brothers and sisters who should stay together, foster carers who feel they could provide care and support for teenagers and foster carers for children who have more complex needs.

We hope you find the information that you need in this brochure and look forward to answering any questions you may have about fostering for Coventry City Council.

Why do children need foster care?

Children of all ages, and different backgrounds may need to come into the care of the local authority. There are many reasons for this, such as a crisis at home requiring safe care for the children, parents who need some extra support to help them parent successfully, drug or alcohol dependency or issues around violence in the home. Children will need to be cared for by foster carers whilst support and future decisions regarding the children are taking place. Other parents may be suffering from ill health and have no other family or friends to care for their child(ren) while they receive treatment.

Most of the time when children are going to be cared for by a foster carer this is known in advance and there is time to prepare for the child/ren's arrival. There are also times when social workers and other professionals involved with the child/ren will be so concerned about their immediate safety they may need a fostering placement very quickly. When this happens, we will provide a foster placement immediately.

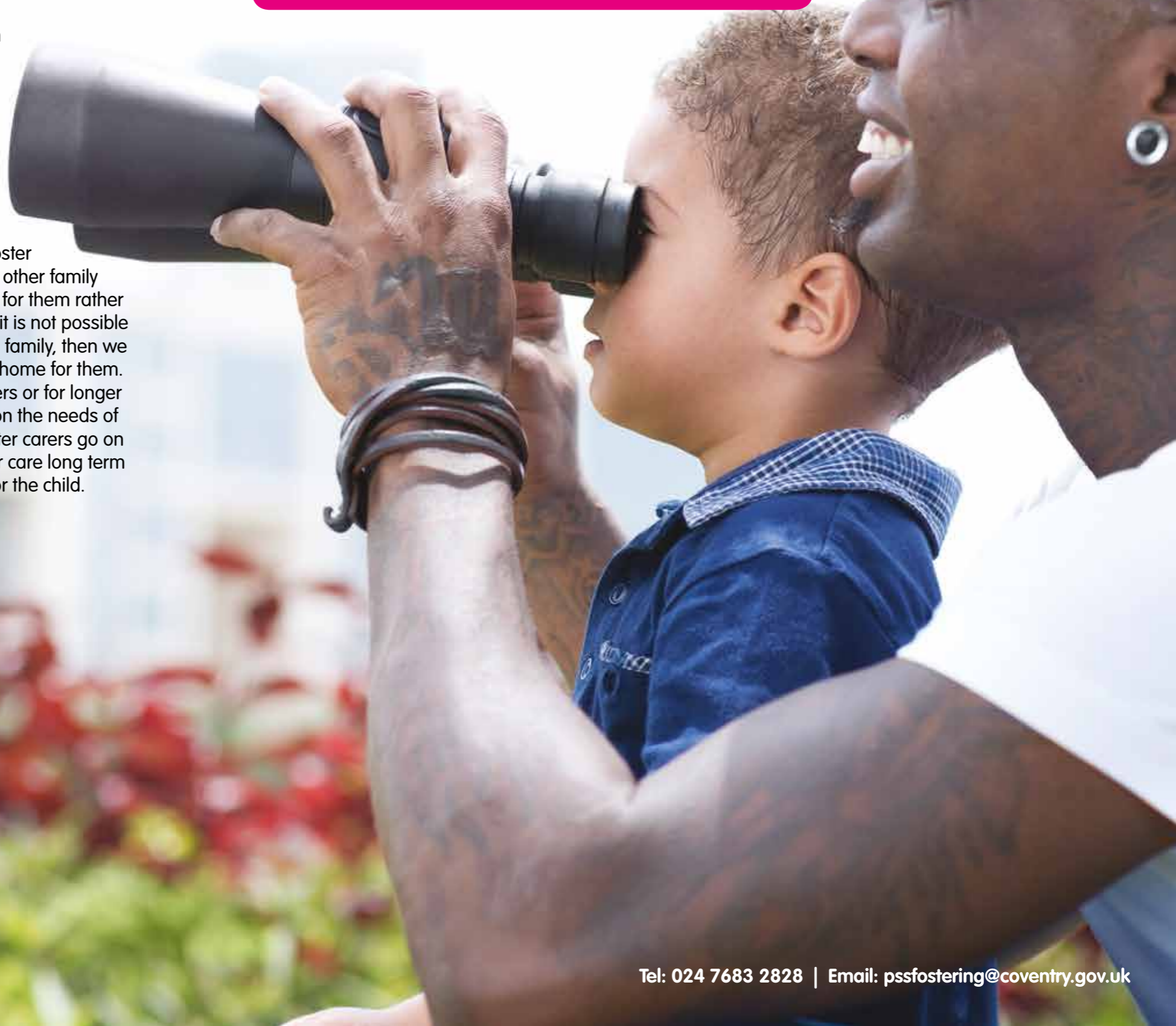
Around half of the children who require foster care have at least one brother or sister and we always look at ways to keep them together when it is in their best interests. Sometimes (depending on age/gender/other factors) siblings can share a room. However, it is not appropriate for children coming into the fostering household to share a room with a child who is not their sibling.

It is also important that children have as much stability as possible during what is often an unsettling time for them - so we generally want to keep children fairly local to their family, friends and school or nursery.

Many children are able to return home after a period in foster care, but some may move onto other family members who are able to care for them rather than their birth parents. Where it is not possible for a child to return to their own family, then we need to find a new permanent home for them. This is when we look for adopters or for longer term foster carers, depending on the needs of the children involved. Some foster carers go on to look after the children in their care long term where this becomes the plan for the child.

“We became foster carers to give love, stability, support and guidance to children who need it. We have seen massive improvements with children's behaviour, speech and language and it is great to know that you have been a part of that.”

Emma and Jodie,
Coventry Foster Carers



What is fostering?

Foster carers provide safe, positive and nurturing homes to children who, for a variety of different reasons, are not able to live with their family for a period of time. Foster carers provide all of the day to day care appropriate for the child's age and development, including, depending on their age, getting them to school and back and helping with their education and any other activities they enjoy.

We provide all of our foster carers with full initial and ongoing training and support from their dedicated social worker from our local team. We also run a 24/7 helpline, so our foster carers know that support is always there for them while they provide this vital community role. Foster carers also work closely with other professionals to help children receive the care, services and any additional help they may need.

We work alongside our foster carers throughout their fostering journey to explore what sort of age range, backgrounds and behaviours they feel that they could manage. As the children we need homes for can be any age and have a variety of needs, we support our carers to be able to take as wide a range of children as possible. In this way, we are able to match foster carers with the needs of the children coming into care. We also ensure that our foster carers have the skills and support required to be able to feel confident in their role.

Children who require foster care will, most often, remain at their present school or nursery (if relevant) as often teachers or key workers are prominent and positive role models in children's lives. Remaining in these familiar settings, with their friends, provides them with a level of consistency and stability. Foster carers transport children to their school, contact with family members and other appointments as required. These are most often within the city boundary and we look to match children with foster carers who can undertake these tasks as a crucial part of their fostering role.

Foster carers are self-employed for their fostering role. Due to specific taxation arrangements for foster carers the income for fostering rarely results in tax being payable and is disregarded for most benefits too. We can signpost you to up-to-date information regarding this.

Coventry City Council foster carers frequently tell us that they feel a real part of a Coventry fostering community and, whether living in Coventry or surrounding areas, enjoy the regular meet-ups with other foster carers, coffee mornings and social events. Alongside the official support (provided through a dedicated social worker) and training package there is also a wealth of informal support and social opportunities on offer. Our foster carers are also automatically members of The Fostering Network and New Family Social (a charity for LGBTQ+ carers) and can access their helplines, events and other activities. Newly approved foster carers are offered additional support through a mentoring arrangement with an experienced foster carer.

Foster carers are considered a crucial part of the team caring for children and are involved not only in decisions regarding the children, but also in how our services are delivered and improved. We actively involve our foster carers in helping us to constantly improve our services for the children and families we work with.

Support and training for foster carers

Our support and training package means that the children remain at the centre of everything we do. Foster carers are a crucial part of the team, working with us to keep Coventry's children safe.

Fostering with Coventry City Council means that you will get to know the different members of the team working alongside you. This team includes children's social workers, health colleagues, managers and, of course, your own dedicated supervising social worker.

Your social worker will visit you at least every two weeks when you first start fostering, and then according to your needs, but at least every four weeks. Their role is to ensure that you have the skills and support to be able to care for the children and to help you access any additional training or support services you may need. They will also put you in contact with other local foster carers if you wish and let you know about other meet-ups and events. They are also there for you to be able to chat over anything that is worrying you and to celebrate the rewards and successes of your fostering experience! We also have a 24/7 telephone line, staffed by our local team to help with any emergency issues should they arise. New foster carers are offered the support of a more experienced foster carer mentor.

All foster carers attend our 'Skills to Foster' course as part of the preparation and assessment to become an approved foster carer. The training is led by our team and is a great way to find out all about fostering, what it is like, what children need from their foster carers and managing different situations. The course is also a good way to meet other people at the same part of their fostering journey.

There are other training modules which cover a range of core subjects relevant to fostering and these are normally undertaken within the first year of fostering with support from your supervising social worker. New foster carers also have the support of their supervising social worker to complete an induction programme and go on to complete an induction portfolio. This is a way of acknowledging and building on your fostering journey and future options.

Most courses, particularly the 'core' modules, are undertaken as a group, which allows foster carers to discuss topics and situations and learn from each other as well as form new social support groups within the foster caring community.

There are also online courses on specific topics which foster carers can undertake - these can be handy as they can be completed at a time that suits their household.

Fostering is often referred to as a lifestyle career and although it is a very different type of role to a 'nine to five' job, it does offer career progression. You may wish to undertake additional training and become more specialist in your fostering, caring for children with more complex needs or children with specific issues which may benefit from you having some additional skills and knowledge. We will explore these options throughout your fostering journey, ensuring that you have the training and support to be able to meet the needs of the children and young people. We will always ensure that opportunities to progress your fostering career are available to you. Our payment system includes a progression framework for carers with more experience.



Different types of fostering

Children and young people of all ages, and from different backgrounds, may need a fostering placement for a wide variety of reasons and for shorter or longer timespans. Therefore, we need people to become foster carers who have a wide range of different skills and experiences to support them. The type of fostering you could provide will very much depend on you, your lifestyle and the needs of your own family.

In Coventry we require foster carers who can offer the following types of placement:

Time-limited (or short-term) fostering. This can mean anything from an overnight stay to a period of several months, or in some situations, years. Short-term foster carers provide a temporary place to stay until the child can return home to their own family or a longer-term arrangement can be made.

Long-term fostering. Sometimes children will not be able to go back to live with their own families. Long-term fostering allows children and young people to stay in a family where they can feel secure, and their needs are met, whilst maintaining contact with their birth family.

Parent and child fostering. These placements are for a new or expectant parent(s) (most often the mother) and their child. The foster carer provides a safe, family based experience for new parents who need some support and guidance around looking after their child.

Out-of-hours fostering. As the name suggests, out-of-hours foster carers look after children and young people who are in need of an immediate placement outside office hours. Where these placements are needed, out-of-hours foster carers will be contacted by an on-call social worker to take the child. The expectation is that these children will remain with the carer for a few days whilst a longer term arrangement is made. A payment is made for the carers to be available with the expectation that they will be available for any child who needs this.

Next Steps fostering. Some fostering providers refer to this as specialist or as therapeutic fostering. We also need to recruit carers to support children with complex emotional and behavioural needs and require foster carers who can provide skilled, intensive foster care in a family home setting. Due to the specific nature of these schemes we would recommend that you call our team or come along to one of our events to find out more.

“It doesn't matter what a person's background is - married, single, gay, straight, home-owner or not - what matters is that foster carers can be understanding, can see things from the child's perspective and be prepared to advocate and support the children and, despite any challenges that they may need to overcome, can recognise the potential in a child.”

Sarah (Social Worker)

Time-limited (or short-term) fostering

Time-limited, or 'short-term' fostering means providing a positive, nurturing home for a child or children, until decisions are made about them either returning to their family, extended family, adopter or long-term foster placement.

About half of all children who need foster care have at least one brother or sister who we will place together in a fostering household whenever that is in their best interests and possible.

Children who come into the care of the local authority need stability, support and nurture while other professionals are working with their parents or relatives to assess and hopefully resolve, domestic, health or parental issues which are preventing children from living safely at home.

Children might also need a time-limited foster placement because their current foster carers' circumstances have changed and they aren't able to care for them anymore. It could be that a more permanent foster placement is being found for them, or their parent or carer is unwell and there is no-one else who can care for them at that time.

In some cases, time-limited fostering placements change into long term fostering arrangements. This will be where everyone involved agrees that this is in the best interests for the child/ren and the foster carers are happy to make that commitment.

A time-limited foster placement can last from a few days to two or three years depending on the situation.

Most placements occur in a planned way, with the approximate length of placement known. However, a time-limited foster carer who is awaiting a placement will normally, with their agreement, be placed on the register to be available to respond

to urgent or short notice requirements for foster placements as there are occasions where placements are needed urgently and introductions are not possible. In both situations you will be fully supported by the team around the child to ensure the placement is a success.

In time-limited fostering, a foster carer is relied upon to provide a safe, nurturing, secure place to live while a child carries on their day-to-day life, continuing to attend their same nursery, school or college (if appropriate) and see their friends and family wherever possible.

As with all our foster carers, time-limited foster carers have their own allocated social worker and access to 24 hour support. Foster carers will also, when caring for children, work alongside the child's social worker to assess the child/ren's support needs and to plan for the long term future of the child/ren. Foster carers are a crucial part of the team of professionals who work with children to help them develop and reach their potential and attend a number of meetings and advocate for the child where needed.

Most foster carers in Coventry are 'approved' to care for children aged 0-18 years old but we discuss with foster carers what age, experiences and situations they feel able to consider and help them gain confidence in caring for children of different ages and with different needs. Most foster carers state a preference for the age range of children they feel most confident to care for.

During the assessment and matching we take into consideration the needs of the children and also the skills and experience of the fostering family and the needs of any children already in the household.

“ I foster to provide a safe, stable, caring home for children and young people and to support their personal, social and emotional development, I hope I can help them to develop their confidence and self-esteem. ”

Louise, Coventry Foster Carer

Respite fostering

Respite foster care is when foster carers care for a child or children for a short, limited and, most often, predefined time only. A respite foster carer cares for a child or children for a maximum of a week or two at a time, for example during school holidays, or at weekends - this is often the same child or children at regular intervals.

Foster carers who offer respite generally look after children who are already cared for on a full-time basis by other foster carers. However, there are circumstances where a child still lives with their birth parents. Sometimes foster carers will offer day care for children to help other foster carers when other commitments are being managed alongside fostering.

Respite fostering is required in a number of different circumstances. For example, a full time foster carer may have urgent family commitments or a particular situation which mean they are unable to care for the child or children as they normally would.

Sometimes a child has a disability, additional needs or a particularly challenging behavioural issue which means the parents or carers are under considerable pressure and would benefit from a break. Social workers may arrange for them to have respite as a way of ensuring that the living arrangement continues.

Respite fostering involves working closely with the full-time carer or parent.

Children are aware that the respite placement will only be for a short time period and that they will be returning to their usual home afterwards. They often see their respite placements as a mini holiday or adventure! Respite placements play a really crucial role in supporting children and their families and are

great opportunities to have the dedicated time and energy to involve the child or children in different experiences and opportunities which they may not have access to in their everyday home.

Crucially, respite care also helps the long term stability of their normal placement or home by providing a 'recharge' moment for the family.

Respite fostering is extremely important to the wellbeing of many families and can make a real difference to children's lives. Respite carers often care for the same child on a regular basis so although not full time fostering it can be a long term commitment. Some people begin their fostering journey with us by offering this type of fostering first.

“ We made the decision to foster to get rich on smiles! And when we see our first genuine happy smile, We just think WOW! This is why we do it.”

Simone, Coventry Foster Carer



Long-term fostering

Some children in Coventry need foster carers who can care for them until they become an adult. This is most often when it has been decided that their parents or relatives are not in a position to be able to meet their needs or due to bereavement.

We therefore need nurturing long-term foster carers who can make the commitment to provide a stable, loving home for children and young people until they reach adulthood.

Most children who need long term fostering will be aged 10 and over, but sometimes they might be younger, especially if we want to keep brothers and sisters together. Around half of all Coventry children who require foster care have at least one brother or sister who we would like them to live with.

When children are long term matched with foster carers the expectation is that they will stay with foster carers until they are adults. Occasionally, family circumstances change and they can return to their family if this is in their best interests. This type of fostering is, therefore, a long term commitment. The children may change school to be closer to your home and so they can create friendship groups close by. Often, and with social worker support, foster carers help children keep in contact with significant family and friends.

As with all fostering schemes, foster carers have their own allocated social worker and access to 24 hour support. Foster carers will also work alongside the child's social worker to plan for the long term future of the child, including preparing them for independence. Long term carers continue to receive the weekly allowances, equipment, support and training as

necessary. Many of the day-to-day decisions about the children's care are delegated to the foster carer so that, as much as possible, the family can function as any other family would.

Children needing long-term foster carers are carefully matched to make sure that the foster carers can meet their needs, both in the short and longer term, and that the fostering family can continue to care for them over a long period of time.

“ We've been fostering for about nine years and had a number of very different children, all welcomed into our family. We've honestly loved every minute, even including the more challenging moments... It's the best job in the world and we have met many lifelong friends along the way and have the best social worker. It's the best thing we have ever done. ”

Jayne and Kelvin,
Coventry Foster Carers

“ My foster carers helped me a lot - if it wasn't for them I'd probably be on the streets or doing other things that I shouldn't. ”

Dan (young person)

Parent and child fostering

Parent and child foster carers provide safe, supported and nurturing homes for those who have been identified as needing some additional help and support in learning to care for a new baby. Although sometimes referred to as 'Mother and Baby' fostering, the parent being supported could be a mother, father or both, and we work with our foster carers very carefully over what is a good match for each household. Parent and child foster placements provide new parents with a positive alternative to a more institutional residential care, which can be isolating for new parents and does not replicate or role model 'normal life'.

Being a parent and child foster carer can be a challenging, yet exceptionally rewarding, role which people come to from many different backgrounds and roles. Some people may have tried different types of fostering and are looking for career progression within fostering whilst other people may have worked with new parents or young people in different roles and feel that their experiences and skills mean that they may be able to make a real difference to helping support new families. The parent/s benefit from a nurturing, home environment where they can be supported in looking after their baby or young child and hopefully build their skills and confidence to be able to move into independence with their child.

There are different reasons why new parents may be recommended for parent and child foster care. It may be that the parent/s are young themselves or have not had an easy family life or support around them at home and, therefore, lack positive role modelling from family and friends. Or it may be that due to some additional needs some support is needed to ensure that safe care can be provided for the baby going forward. Whatever the reason, parent and child foster carers provide crucial support and consistency by providing the parent/s with reassurance, guidance and support during the early months of parenting, which at times can be the first positive experience of parenting and family life they have experienced.

In parent and child placements, the foster carer encourages the parent/s to develop their skills and only steps in to provide baby care if needed. So the role is less about providing practical baby care, and more about guiding the parent/s in how to care for the baby safely and help the baby to grow and develop. The foster carer also has an important role observing and recording how the parent looks after the child and works closely with other professionals to identify additional support which may be needed in the future. It is important to be aware that as a parent and child foster carer your role will be as an important part of a team supporting, assessing and gathering evidence on whether or not the child can safely remain with their parent/s independently. This means that there will be times when the assessment will recommend that the parent/s are unable to do this longer term and plans for the baby will include living with other relatives or adoption. Parent and child foster carers can play a key role in preparing to move a baby on in these situations. We provide full training and support from our dedicated team to help manage all different situations and outcomes.

Foster carers joining our small team of parent and child carers will receive full initial and ongoing training covering a wide range of topics, including up-to-date baby care advice and support from their own allocated social worker. Foster carers and our team also work alongside the parent and child's social worker in meetings and in putting together information which can help in assessing how the parent is or isn't able to meet the child's needs, for this role a good level of English is required.

Parent and child fostering, can be very rewarding but is also complex and challenging. We do require the main foster carer in a household to be based at home to be focussed on this role and due to this there are additional fees and allowances offered to foster carers who are able to offer their commitment to this crucial role.

Parent and baby foster carers play a key role in our community, making a real difference to families and children.

“I'd love to provide support to a young family starting off.”

“I know how difficult the early days can be with a baby and how crucial support can be.”

“Fostering for Coventry means you are part of the team of professionals caring for the children.”

Fostering for Coventry

In Coventry we are dedicated to ensuring our children, wherever appropriate, remain near to their family, friends and school whilst in foster care. Fostering for your local authority is proven to give children the best chance of staying local, which benefits the children by giving them as much stability as possible during what can be an unsettling time. Fostering within your local community and authority is also more practical for the whole fostering family by having shorter journeys to school, meeting with family and friends and other appointments which children may need.

Fostering for your local authority means that you are our first choice when we are finding foster carers to look after children who come into our care. We always look to place Coventry children with our own team of foster carers before looking further afield. This means you are much more likely to have regular, local placements with us than with an external, independent agency.

As part of the Council we are, of course, not for profit, meaning that the crucial investments made into fostering remain in the city, benefiting Coventry children, families and the community.

Choosing which local authority to foster with should involve speaking to, or meeting the team, (we hold regular ‘meet the team’ information sessions - see our website or social media for details) to get an idea of what it would be like to work as part of that team and have all your questions answered. You may also need to consider how a particular geographical area may work better for you. For instance would you be able to transport children to school easily throughout that area?

We are totally committed to expanding our community of foster carers and are very happy to work with you if you are either new to fostering, or are currently fostering elsewhere and considering changing to foster with us. As with most local authorities, we follow The Fostering Network’s advice on separating out a ‘skills fee’ (which is paid to foster carers for their role as a foster carer) and the ‘maintenance allowance’ (which is paid to carers to cover the cost of caring for the children). If you are looking at payments for foster carers both figures need to be added together alongside other additional benefits and allowances to make comparisons. We would welcome the opportunity to talk through this with you if you need to make any comparisons to your current situation or other information you have received from elsewhere.

“There are local foster carer meet-ups, support groups, coffee mornings and lots of other activities. It’s a lot more social than I thought.”

Ian and Michael's story...

We are Ian and Michael. We got married in January 2016 and moved to a two bedroom house shortly afterwards. We started fostering in 2019 and are currently fostering for 'emergency' fostering placements and for shorter times that are needed for different reasons, including for day care to help other foster carers with other commitments.

Why did we choose to foster? Well for me, Ian, fostering had always been part of my life - my parents fostered when I was younger, starting with respite but then progressing to full time fostering so I enjoyed having lots of 'brothers and sisters' staying with us when I was growing up. Michael grew up in a large family with five other siblings and is very family-oriented and enjoys spending time with his siblings, nieces and nephews.

When we started discussing having our own family we both decided that we would like to give something back to our local community by helping children who need a safe, warm and loving home - something we knew we could offer.

It has been a real pleasure to meet and help the various different children that have come into our home. As emergency foster carers we can have children of different ages stay from one night or more. Over the time we have been doing this we feel that we have formed a special bond with all the children that have stayed with us and have kept in touch with a number of them. In particular we have stayed in touch with a child who moved from our care to a residential home. We have also been visiting this child every fortnight, it has been so rewarding to see the progress that he has made over the last year. We feel very privileged to have played a part in this.

People often ask us about how we can help children to feel safe and welcome in our home, especially when they may be staying unexpectedly and for a short amount of time. One of the ways we do this is, where possible, to take photos of all of the children, sending a copy

of the photos with them when they leave so that they have a memory of their stay, for straight away, but also for the future when they may reflect upon what happened at this point in their life. We also have photos in our kitchen which we have found helps put new children's minds at rest as they can see all the different children that have stayed with us.

We have formed a really close relationship and bond with the Emergency Duty Team and also the out of hours social workers who are always on hand to provide any support we may need 24/7. We also feel really supported by, and close to, other foster carers in the area, which is great to share information and experiences. There is also a lot of initial training on offer - sometimes in person, and sometimes online, all of which is great to keep our knowledge growing.

Fostering through the Covid pandemic like most people in a parenting role, we found it hard to always keep the different range of children occupied, so we made the decision to invest in different forms of technologies, purchased some good old board games and stocked up on lots of arts and crafts material - all of which are still going strong! We've learnt that sometimes it is the simple things that can bring us all together.

The biggest motivation for us is knowing that we are giving something back to our local community and helping children that need help, love and support. We've really enjoyed being an advocate on behalf of the children who have stayed with us and feel that we can make a difference, which is hugely rewarding.

If you are thinking of fostering all we can say is go for it! We have never looked back since starting our fostering journey. It will be the best decision you will make.

We are not saying that the journey will ever be easy, there will no doubt be various challenges along the way. However, the best feeling ever is knowing that you are making that difference to a child's life, seeing children smile has to be the best feeling ever!



“ If you are thinking of fostering all we can say is go for it! We have never looked back since starting our fostering journey. It will be the best decision you will make. ”

Ian and Michael

Timi's story...

We were approved as foster carers on Next Steps Scheme (Specialist fostering) in December 2017. We have two birth children and currently we have one child we are fostering.

We came to fostering as I felt I had achieved most of my professional aspirations of working in the education field and I wanted to contribute to my community by supporting the development of children. My husband and children were very happy to support me and have contributed actively to looking after the children.

Our birth children have become very good friends with our current young person, and we all feel that he makes our life even more joyful. He likes to call my husband 'Sensei dad' because he likes the film Karate Kid. We feel he is part of our family, and we feel privileged that he agrees with this too.

We do not consider the fostering of children more challenging than raising one's own birth children. It's not that there are no challenges, but that's what parents are built for; to help another generation grow to their full potential. We have had to adapt some of our routines to accommodate our young people and make room to accept them as they were, when they came to us.

There is ongoing training that keeps us connected with the Fostering Service and abreast of any significant or new information. This all helps us to understand some of the challenges foster children face, their causes, and how to help them. This makes it easier to foster.

Fostering is a great thing to do. We feel we all have enough love and kindness to share. The addition of a child or children to your home brings many advantages; one of the important ones is that every child brings something good into your home, even if they don't know it.

In their own way, they make you a better person by helping you to become more considerate, more understanding, more resilient, more accommodating, etc.

I believe by fostering children we are contributing to society by nurturing children to become contributors and that hopefully their life experiences will make them more insightful of some of the gaps within society that need to be closed and we can, therefore, work together to all help to address these.

“ We foster to meet a need to nurture, support and root for young persons who need to believe in themselves, in humanity and in their ability to become contributors in a society that values them and their contributions.”

Timi

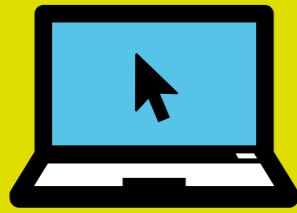


Your Fostering Journey

Checks and References - we undertake a number of checks and references (such as medical / DBS)



Call us



Apply online



Come to a 'Meet the team' event



Initial visit - one of our team visits you at home

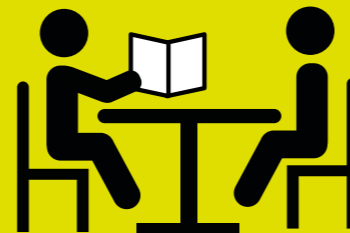


Consider whether to continue



Checks and References - we undertake a number of checks and references (such as medical / DBS)

Panel - You are invited to come along to the fostering panel who make a recommendation for you about fostering

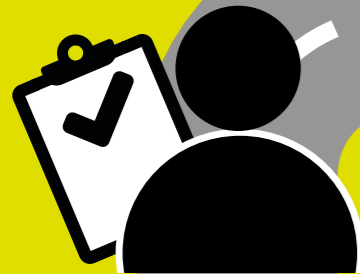


Social worker completes your assessment report and shares this with you

Social Workers Visits - your allocated social worker will visit you around 6-8 times to complete your assessment



Attend 'Skills to Foster' training course with other potential foster carers



Agency Decision Maker - makes the decision about approving you as a foster carer



Consider whether to continue

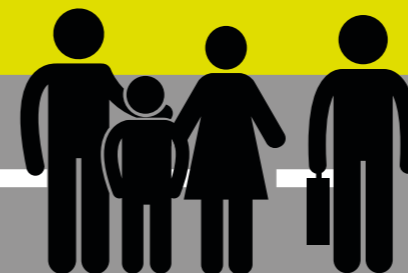
Approx 4 to 6 months to this point

Welcome

You are now a registered Coventry City Council Foster Carer and a member of the Coventry Foster Carers' Association and Fostering Network



You meet your supervising social worker who will provide you with ongoing support and also advice and guidance



First of your placements - you, your supervising social worker, the child's social worker and others work together as a team around the child



Ongoing Training - you continue with training, six core modules to be completed in the first year

You continue your fostering journey with ongoing support and training

What makes a good foster carer?

Foster carers bring all sorts of different skills and life experiences to fostering and we work with foster carers and the 'team around the child' to match the needs of the children with foster carers.

If you aren't sure if you are eligible to foster, please have a chat with the team.

Coventry City Council foster carers need:

- A spare room
- Time and energy to care for a child (this will be different depending on their age)
- Generally good and stable physical and emotional health
- Some previous childcare experience, through family, work or as a volunteer
- The ability to transport a child or children to different appointments and school (if applicable)
- Spoken and written English (to be able to talk at meetings about the children's needs and help children develop)

What are you good at?

Skills that also help make a good foster carer are

- Being a good listener
- Asking for help if you need it
- Being organised
- The ability to get on and work with different people
- Problem solving approach
- Being understanding of how other people might be feeling
- Patience
- And a sense of humour



What happens next

Thank you for your interest in fostering for Coventry City Council. Coventry needs more foster carers to help care for Coventry children.

We are here to help you with any more information you need to consider joining our team.

If you have any further questions, or feel ready to start your fostering journey with us, please:

- Come along to one of our 'meet the team' information sessions. Details are on our website www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering
- Call the team on 024 7683 2828
- Email us at pssfostering@coventry.gov.uk

We can then arrange to visit you at home and start your fostering journey!

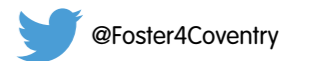
Time to make a difference.

Together we can give children a childhood.

Your home visit is booked for:

For more information call the friendly team on **024 7683 2828**

Email: pssfostering@coventry.gov.uk



Notes

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**Coventry needs more foster carers.
It's time to make a difference.**

**FOSTER FOR
COVENTRY**



Foster for Coventry



@Foster4Coventry

Tel: 024 7683 2828 | Email: pssfostering@coventry.gov.uk