

## What is Fostering?

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Fostering is a way of providing children and young people with a family life when they are unable to be looked after by their own family. This could be just for a few days, or many months. There are many different kinds of fostering, but all of them involve caring for someone else's child for a period of time – so being a Foster Carer is one of the most responsible jobs you can do.

## Why do Children need Foster Care?

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There are many reasons why children may need to be looked after. Some parents don't have family or friends to support them; other's may be ill or having to cope with a severely disabled child and need an occasional break. In some cases children have suffered neglect or abuse and have to be removed from home for their own safety. There may be a combination of factors. In most cases though, children do go back to their own families.



## Who can be a Foster Carer?

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Just like the children they look after, Foster Carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Their common link is a genuine concern for the welfare of children whom they can help by offering to share their lives and home.

Anyone who feels they have something to offer children can apply. There are no age limits, and it doesn't matter whether you're single, married, or living as a couple. We need Foster Carers of all ethnic origins – children do best in families that can reflect their own culture, language and religion. Disability needn't be a barrier to fostering – but the job can be demanding, so you will need to be reasonably fit, both physically and emotionally. In fact, we are interested to hear from anyone who has time, patience, energy and a sense of humour.

## Are there any reasons why I can't Foster?

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Obviously, Fostering isn't for everyone. But we won't exclude anyone on grounds of race, religion, culture, class, gender, age or marital status.

As you would expect, extensive references are undertaken in respect of all prospective Foster Carers. Including Police checks. But only certain serious criminal convictions will automatically disqualify you from becoming a Foster Carer.



## What is Foster Care really like?

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As a Foster Carer you will be faced with situations, which may be unfamiliar to you. It isn't something you can do alone; it will affect your family and friends and if you have children of your own you must think about how they may react. Helping a child can be rewarding – but it can also mean coping with difficult or disturbed behaviour; remember they are going through major changes in their lives too. However, most of our Carers find that the rewards and satisfactions of fostering far outweigh the problems and frustrations.

## What support do Foster Carers receive?

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Fostering isn't something you are expected to do on your own. Foster Carers have the support of their own Family Placement Officer, there are regular meetings with other Foster Carers, and on-going training is provided through the Social Services Department. Foster Carers also receive financial support.

## How do I apply?

Making a decision to become a Foster Carer isn't one to be taken lightly. We suggest your next step is to talk to a Social Worker from the Family Placement Team based on the Civic Offices Campus. The Team can be contacted through the Swindon Borough Council Switchboard on 01793 463000, or there is also a direct line number telephone: 01793 465700 or email: [familyplacement@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@swindon.gov.uk)

We will welcome your enquiry and will be happy to discuss any aspect of fostering with you, including the application process. Remember, you won't be committing yourself to anything at this stage.

## Your Views

We would welcome your comments. If you would like to give us your thoughts and ideas about this leaflet or other Social Services publications please contact:

**Customer Liaison Officer**

**Tel:** 01793 463496

**Email :**

[YourCommentsCount@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:YourCommentsCount@swindon.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk)

If you require Council Information in another format, please contact Customer Services on 01793 463725

Per informazioni in altro formato, contattare il Servizio Clienti chiamando il numero: 01793 463725

Italian

আপনার যদি অন্য কোন আকারে বা রূপে তথ্যের দরকার হয়, কাস্টমার সার্ভিসেস্কে (01793) 463725 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

Bengali

如果您需要用其它语言或方式咨询这方面的信息，请拨打我们的顾客服务热线：(01793) 463725。

Chinese

જો તમને બીજા ફાર્મેટ (પત્રક) માં જાણકારી જોવતી હોય તો કૃપા કરી ગ્રાહક સેવા પ્રતિનિધિનો ટેલીફોન નંબર (01793) 463725 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

यदि आपको अन्य फार्मेट (प्रपत्र) में जानकारी चाहिए तो कृपया ग्राहक सेवा प्रतिनिधि से टेलीफोन नंबर (01793) 463725 पर संपर्क करें।

Hindi

別の構成・形式で資料をご使用される必要がある場合には、次の番号の弊社顧客サービスまでお問い合わせ下さい。電話：01793 463725

Japanese

Jeśli chcesz uzyskać informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt z Wydziałem Usług dla Klientów pod numerem telefonu 01793 463725.

Polish

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਰਕੇ ਕਸਟਮਰ ਸਰਵਿਸਜ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ (01793) 463725 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Punjabi

اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا ہدی لکھائی وغیرہ میں معلومات درکار ہوں تو براہ مہربانی کسٹومر سروسز سے ٹیلی فون نمبر : 01793 463725 پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

Urdu

Swindon Social Services

COULD YOU  
BECOME A  
FOSTER  
CARER?



SWINDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL