

Becoming a FOSTER CARER

The first step is to contact us by phone or email to request an information pack which will be sent out immediately. If you complete the **Registration of Interest** form in the pack and return it to us, a family placement worker from the recruitment team will contact you to arrange an **Initial Home Visit**. At this appointment the process of assessment and approval is explained together with important aspects of the fostering task. The worker will view your accommodation, particularly any bedrooms that you propose to use for fostering. If you have pets or animals the worker who visits you will ask for information about them and may wish to see where they sleep and eat. Applicants are asked to provide further information about their circumstances and to indicate whether, to their knowledge, the outcome of any statutory checks may affect their application.

After the visit you may be invited to attend **The Skills To Foster Training** which is held over three days in a central Aberdeenshire location. It covers a range of fostering topics -

- What do Foster Carers Do?
- Who are the Children and Young People?
- Working Together
- Safer Caring
- Understanding Behaviour
- Moving On.

One of the three days includes a parallel session called 'My Family Fosters' for 7 to 14 year old members of applicants' households.

Home Study Assessment

You will be allocated a worker who will undertake a series of home visits and carry out all necessary **statutory checks**. Facts about your past and present circumstances are gathered together with evidence of your skills, knowledge and day to day availability. This information provides the basis of a report to go forward to the **Fostering Panel**. This report will specify the number, age range and gender of children that you wish to offer foster placements to and the type of fostering that you will undertake: Permanent, Temporary or Respite.



As part of this process the following **statutory checks** will be carried out:

PVG checks – with your consent, we will ask Disclosure Scotland to carry out a PVG check. Anyone in your household who is over 16 will also be asked to undertake a Disclosure Scotland Check.

Overseas Criminal records check – if you have lived overseas we will ask you to provide checks from any countries you have lived in.

Medical check – we will ask your general practitioner to give you a medical examination to ensure that you are fit and well enough to care for children. This check can be carried out at an early stage in the assessment process if you or your worker consider that your health may impact on your ability to become an approved foster carer.

Local Authority checks – we will contact any other local authorities in which you have lived to check if you have had contact with social work agencies in the past, and whether this is relevant to your application.

Personal references – we will ask you to provide the names of six individuals who could provide you with a reference.

Employment history and employers reference – we will ask you about your employment history since leaving school and will request a reference from your current employer.

Previous partners and adult children – we may wish to make contact with your previous partners, or any children from a previous relationship.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing check – this includes a risk assessment of your home, surroundings and any pets or animals that a child may come into contact with while staying with you.

Presentation of Home Study Report to the Panel

Your home study report will be presented to our fostering panel. You will be invited to attend the panel with your worker to discuss your application. The Panel's recommendation about your 'approval' as a foster carer is considered by the Agency Decision maker who has 21 days to inform you of their decision.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/children/fostering

