

Recruitment of Foster Carers

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Support Sheffield City Council raise awareness about fostering and support our campaign to recruit more foster carers.

1. Introduction/background

1.1. Due to increasing numbers of children looked after and demand for placements, we need to increase the number of foster carers and connected carer placements within the city, the fostering service aims to:

- Achieve a net increase of 40 family-based care placements in 2023/24.
- Increase the number and proportion of looked after children living in family placements.
- Provide homes for young people in Sheffield, close to their families, communities, and schools.
- Ensure that best value for money principles are applied.

1.2. To achieve our recruitment target and meet our aims and objectives our approach is to access as many marketing opportunities as possible.

2. What is Fostering

2.1. Fostering is caring for children in your own home when they cannot live with their birth family.

2.2. This can be short term whilst other long-term plans are made for the child (such as returning home, adoption etc.). Or it can be long term with a child remaining with you until they can live independently, it can even be to provide support and care during key holiday periods.

3. How can schools help?

3.1. We are asking for schools as partners and corporate parents to support us in our campaign. Schools have a wide reach across the city and potential to share messages with a wide audience of families that could potentially foster.

- 3.2. We are asking schools to share messages with your school community that will be sent to you via SchoolPoint, we would ask that you in turn can share these with families through your communication channels.
- 3.3. We can provide digital assets that can be displayed on your platforms, for example we can provide a banner that could be uploaded to your school webpage to advertise fostering.
- 3.4. We will provide materials to schools that can be displayed on notice boards in your school reception and your staff rooms. We know that people who have been teachers, teaching assistants or school support staff have valuable experience to offer young people, and there are opportunities for them to foster alongside their current job or when they decide to move on from education that fostering may be a good opportunity for them to explore.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Support Sheffield City Council Children and Families service by promoting communications to their school community.