

# Information Guide



The magic of fostering.



**BARNSELEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Welcome to Fostering Barnsley!

**We're excited that you're interested in finding out more about the magic of fostering with us. Thank you for taking this first step towards creating a stable and loving home for Barnsley's children and young people in care.**

## **What You'll Find in This Guide**

This information pack is designed to guide you through the fostering process with Fostering Barnsley. We want to answer any questions or concerns you might have. We also want to explain the different types of fostering, and outline how you can become a foster carer.

We hope this pack provides you with useful information. We want to give you confidence to progress in your journey to foster with us. Fostering is a rewarding and life-changing experience, not only for the children and young people in your care but also for you and your family.

**Give us a call any time - we'd love to talk with you.**

## **Inside, you'll find the following:**

- ❁ Information about us
- ❁ What is fostering?
- ❁ What does a foster carer look like?
- ❁ Types of foster care
- ❁ Support on your doorstep
- ❁ Financial support
- ❁ Local training - how we help you develop as a foster carer
- ❁ Step-by-step guide to the application process
- ❁ Information if you're a foster carer looking to transfer to us
- ❁ Next steps- how to apply

## **Talk with us today**

### **Phone:**

01226 978600\*

### **Email:**

[support@fosteringbarnsley.co.uk](mailto:support@fosteringbarnsley.co.uk)

### **Website:**

[www.fosteringbarnsley.co.uk](http://www.fosteringbarnsley.co.uk)

\*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. 6pm evening appointments available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will aim to respond to messages within 1 business day.

# About Us

Fostering Barnsley is a part of Barnsley Council, and we're proud to support children and young people in care in our community.

All of our children and young people across Barnsley deserve a loving home full of care and support. Our children and young people in care should be able to stay close to their family, friends, school and the community they know and love. This means they can have the same opportunities and life chances as every other child. The best way we can guarantee this is to rely on our inspirational fostering community in Barnsley to keep them here, where they want to be.

## The magic of fostering

Our amazing foster carers are invaluable. Their everyday support is magical: thanks to our foster carers' help we see children and young people bloom and flourish. The more foster carers we can welcome to our fostering community, the more stable and loving homes we can create for Barnsley's children and young people in care.

## Living our values

At Fostering Barnsley, we want to live our values. That's why we're proud to be:

- ✿ A Fostering Friendly employer. If you work for Barnsley Council, we will help you to manage your hours and flexibility so you can foster.
- ✿ A real community. We're home to over 130 fostering families, who help our children to flourish every day. We aim to provide a supportive network where carers can share experiences, support each other and share advice.
- ✿ Fostering services without the jargon. We might be 'corporate parents' to the children and young people in our care, but you'll rarely hear us use corporate jargon here. Our children and young people are exactly that- part of our family here at Fostering Barnsley.





# What is Fostering?

Fostering involves providing a home for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families. This care can range from a few days to several years, depending on the child's needs. Foster carers offer stability, support, and love, helping children navigate challenging times in their lives.

## Why Fostering Matters

Children and young people enter the foster care system for various reasons. This might be due to family issues such as illness, substance misuse, or relationship problems, making it unsafe for them to stay at home. In many cases, children have experienced abuse or neglect and need a safe place to live. There are also emergency situations where children require immediate placement at short notice. Fostering offers these children a safe, nurturing environment where they can feel secure and valued. Your decision to foster can make such a profound difference.

Fostering can be the first step towards a child being able to bloom.

## What does an average day look like for a foster carer?

As a foster carer, you will look after the child's every-day needs and provide additional support for their care. This includes attending care meetings, transporting the child to family time and advocating for their wellbeing. Everyday tasks include preparing meals, helping with homework, taking the child to appointments, and offering guidance and support during emotional moments. You'll also be involved in their education and personal development, ensuring they attend school and medical appointments, and encouraging participation in social activities and hobbies.

As a foster carer, you will play a vital role in a child's life by providing a safe and loving home. Your support will help them process their emotions and experiences, and establish routines that provide structure and predictability. By creating a nurturing environment, you help children develop resilience, build self-esteem, and achieve their full potential.



# What does a foster carer look like?

## Who are our foster carers?

Barnsley is home to so many fostering families, and we're always looking to grow our community. We know that people often worry they're not the right fit for fostering, but there's no set mould for a foster carer! You might be like:

**Jon**, who worked with children for years before becoming a foster carer, and cares for young people until they reach adulthood.

**Nicola and Steve**, whose blended family includes five birth children who are all now teens or adults, and now foster newborn babies.

**Farah and Yusuf**, who were inspired to foster by family friends and provide sleepover care for a pair of siblings.

**Shirley**, who fosters as a single carer and teaches the young children in her care how to play along with Bon Jovi records!

We only ask that you meet some eligibility criteria in line with national minimum standards for fostering in the UK:

- ✿ You must be over 21 years old.
- ✿ You have a spare bedroom for a child or young person. If you don't have a spare room, you may be eligible to foster a baby aged 0-2 in your bedroom.
- ✿ You exhibit patience, understanding, and a commitment to supporting a child's development.

Having a long-term health condition or disability won't necessarily prevent you from fostering. We will discuss with you about your ability to look after the child. All potential foster carers have a medical check, and we consider a GP's and medical advisor's opinion before making a decision.

We welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences to give children and young people a positive future in the right home for them. Whether you're single or in a relationship, have children or don't, identify as LGBTQIA+, work with children, or have just retired, we want to hear from you.



**“For me there’s no one key strength that outweighs all others to being a foster carer and it’s definitely a journey of learning. Thankfully, we are a very diverse bunch of people and that is exactly what is needed, because that diversity also comes with the children that join our families.”**

**- Shirley, foster carer**



# Who Needs Fostering?

Children and young people of all ages are in need of foster carers. At Fostering Barnsley, we approve foster carers to care for children across a wide age range. The more foster carers we have who are happy to care for children and young people of all ages, the more we can easily match up a loving home when it's most needed. We understand that you might have preferences to care for a certain age range and will work with you to see if we can accommodate you.

**Ready to talk  
with our team?**

**Booking a call takes  
only 2 minutes.**

**Click here**

## **Babies and Toddlers**

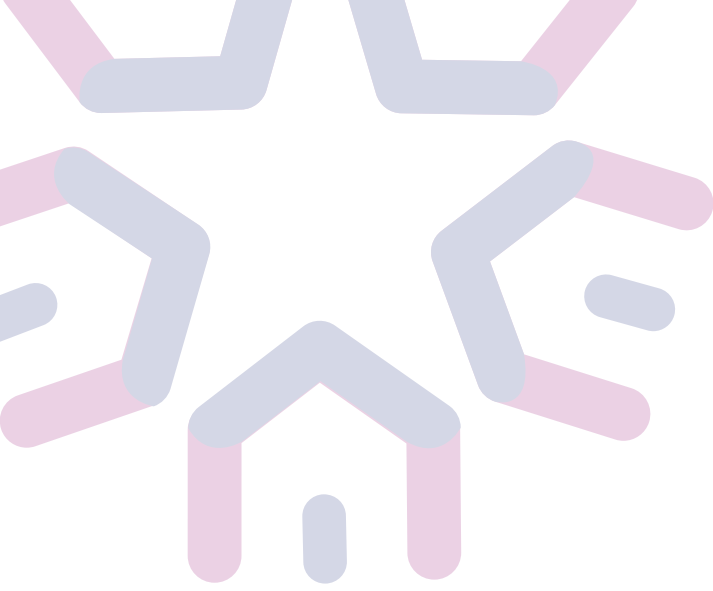
Young children, including babies and toddlers, often need foster care for a short period while their long-term arrangements are determined. These children require significant love, care, and attention to help them through the transition away from their birth families. Foster carers provide stability, establish routines, and support these children as they prepare to either return to their families, move to an adoptive home, or transition into long-term foster care.

Children aged 0-2 can also sleep in a cot in the same room as a foster carer. If your spare room is already occupied, you can still foster this age range.

## **Teenagers**

Fostering teenagers comes with its own unique challenges and rewards. Teens are often in care due to neglect, abuse, or family issues, not because of behavioural problems. This age group benefits immensely from the guidance, stability, and positive role models that foster carers provide. By fostering teenagers, you can help them make critical life decisions and support them through their journey to adulthood.





### **Sibling Groups**

Keeping brothers and sisters together in foster care is crucial for their emotional well-being. Being with their brothers or sisters provides comfort and stability during a difficult time. Foster carers who can accommodate brother and sister groups are important and highly needed, as maintaining these family bonds is beneficial for the children's sense of security and continuity.

### **Children from Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds**

Children from various ethnic backgrounds need foster carers who can respect and celebrate their cultural heritage. While it's ideal to place children with carers who share their background, it's also essential to have carers who are committed to supporting the child's cultural, religious and language needs. This helps the child maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging.

### **Children with Disabilities**

There is a significant need for foster carers who can care for children with physical disabilities, learning difficulties, or complex health needs. These children require a supportive environment where they can thrive. Foster carers for these children need to be patient, adaptable, and ready to provide specialised care. Both full-time and part-time fostering opportunities are available for those dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children with additional needs. Our foster carers who help children with complex needs go above and beyond in their role. To make sure you're fully supported, we'll offer you an additional payment of £200 per week for specialised care.

**Download our  
Finance Guide**

**For the full details and  
to learn more about  
our finances.**

**Click here**





# Types of Fostering

Fostering looks different for the different care needs of our children and young people. You might be providing care for just a few nights, or caring for a young person until they're ready to leave home as an adult. There's a different type of foster care to suit everyone and they're all equally important to helping our children flourish.

## Short-term fostering

In some instances we need to decide what the best course of action is for a child's future. Short-term foster care means that a child is cared for by a fostering family for a short period of time. It might be an overnight stay, or it could be up to two years. If you choose to foster short term you will provide a safe and secure home until a long term solution is found. We may reunite them with their parent or birth family or find a long term placement or adoption.

## Long-term fostering

Sometimes a child can't go back to their birth family. The best thing for them is to find a long-term foster family. Long-term foster carers open their homes for many years. If you choose to foster long term, the child would become a member of your family and live with you on an ongoing basis.

We regularly check with our long-term foster carers to make sure the child or young person is happy in their new home. If possible, you would help the child stay connected with their birth family in a positive way.



# Staying at Home care

Care shouldn't have to stop when a young person turns 18. When a young person stays home with you, you're still offering valuable guidance and support as a foster carer. To help you, we offer 50% of your skill-based fee so you can continue to care. You could receive up to £187 per week to aid your Staying Home arrangements.

## Respite care

Our respite carers offer sleepovers, which give essential respite to a birth family or another fostering family. This is often over an evening, a weekend, or a couple of weeks over the school holidays.

Our respite carers help give our children in care some time away from home, in a place where they feel comfortable. If you choose this type of foster care, you can expect to look after a child for a day or a night through pre-planned arrangements.

## Parent and child fostering

Some young mums or dads have very limited support networks and find themselves unable to meet their baby's basic needs. They may need a place to live with someone who can support them without taking over their parenting responsibilities. Our foster carers help new parents learn how to care for their child, in a safe, supportive and welcoming home.

## Emergency care

Sometimes, we urgently need foster care for a child or young person. This is called emergency care. Emergency foster carers play a crucial role in providing immediate support when a child needs it most.

We ensure our emergency foster carers are well-prepared for these important moments of care.

## Short breaks care

Our short breaks foster carers provide regular support for children with additional needs. This might look like caring for a child for a couple of nights every month, or a regular weekend arrangement. You could also help give a child a break away from their parents, for example helping them to get involved in social activities during weekends, holidays or after school.

These different types of care might seem worlds apart, but whether you're only offering sleepover stays, emergency care for an infant, or continuing to care for a young person after they turn 18, you're spreading the magic of fostering.

### **Specialist fostering**

We value our foster carers with specialist skills, who can care for children and young people who are experiencing difficult feelings, or may have additional needs. Finding the right home for a child or young person can be really transformational

### **Sibling groups**

It's beneficial for brothers and sisters to stay together. Wherever possible we'll try to find carers who can foster more than one child.

**“To see our kids flourish and thrive, knowing how much they’ve overcome is just amazing. There’s nothing quite like knowing that you’re really helping someone have a second chance.”**

**Ellen and Joe, fostering family**

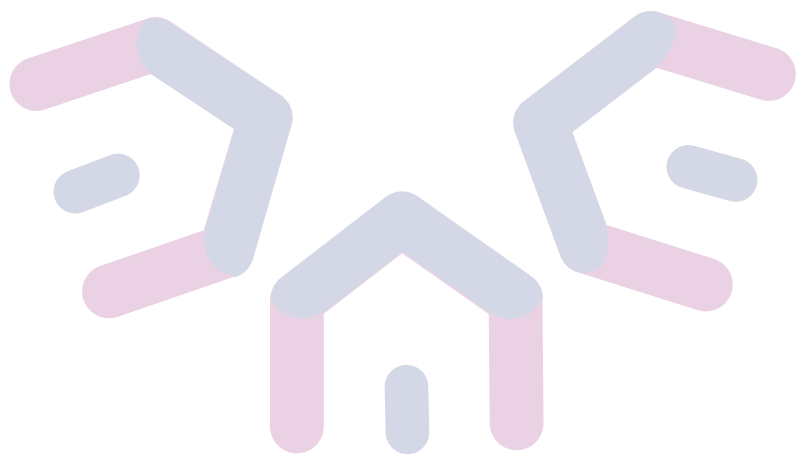
**Contact our team today**

**Talk to our friendly team about how you can help children and young people, no matter their age. You can book a call at a time to suit you.**

**[Click here](#)**







# Support on Your Doorstep

At Fostering Barnsley, the well-being of our foster carers is our top priority. The more you feel supported, the more fostering magic you can spread across our community! Our support is as holistic as possible so you can come to us with any and every query throughout your fostering journey. We'll be here from your first enquiry and beyond approval as a foster carer.

## Comprehensive Training

We want our foster carers to feel confident in the care they give. Our training starts at assessment, with our Skills to Foster course, and it certainly doesn't stop at approval. We offer a range of courses all year round, so you can bring more magic of compassion and understanding into your role. We even provide the opportunity to gain a diploma qualification in fostering through our funded course.

**Read more about our training in full on page 16.**

## Holistic Support

Our holistic approach includes providing resources and working closely with schools to support your foster child's education. We help you access essential health services, including counselling, to support both your mental health and that of the child in your care. This comprehensive support makes sure that all aspects of your foster child's well-being are addressed.

## Dedicated Social Worker

Every foster carer is assigned a dedicated social worker who provides regular visits and ongoing support. Your social worker is there to offer advice, address any concerns, and make sure that everything is running smoothly. They are your go-to person for all things related to fostering! Your social worker will also help you to complete your Training, Support and Development Standards (TSDS), typically within your first year of fostering. This will mean you can be considered for a skills level review, giving you more opportunities to share the magic of fostering.

## Joined up support

Feel supported throughout your fostering journey with our joined up team of social workers. Everything we do is to benefit Barnsley's young people, and we're proud of our experienced and friendly social work team. Our support line and out-of-hours team are always available to assist you. Whether it's an everyday query or a last minute update, we'll make sure you don't feel alone as a foster carer. This continuous support network is designed to provide peace of mind and immediate assistance when you need it most. We'll give you the assistance when times get tough, and celebrate your successes with you.

## Financial Support

We recognize the hard work and dedication of our foster carers with competitive allowances that cover the costs of caring for a child. On average, our foster carers receive £683 per week in fostering fees. This financial support helps make sure you can provide a high standard of care without worrying about expenses.

**Download our Finance Guide here.**

## Peer Support and Networking

Barnsley is home to a true fostering community, and we want you to feel fully welcomed. We host regular support groups and events where you can connect, share advice, and build friendships. These peer support opportunities are invaluable for sharing experiences and gaining insights from others who understand the challenges and rewards of fostering.

## Sleepover Care

We understand the importance of taking a break. Our respite (or sleepover) care service allows you to take time off while making sure that the children in your care continue to receive high-quality support. This service provides short stays with another trusted foster carer, giving you the rest you need without compromising the care provided to the children.

**Want to learn more  
about support?**

**Contact our team today-  
you can book a call at a  
time to suit you.**

**Click here**

**“We’ve had a really positive experience of working with Fostering Barnsley. Our social workers have done everything to make it work, and have always accommodated our needs, giving us flexibility such as the option to provide respite placements.”**

**- Ellen and Joe, fostering family**



# Financial Support for Foster Carers

We truly appreciate the important role that our foster carers play in a child's life on a daily basis. Each week, they provide a loving home and life-changing care for Barnsley's children and young people.

We know that creating magical experiences for a child isn't easy! It takes time, care, and support. At Fostering Barnsley, we are committed to providing financial support to our foster carers that's effective and easy to understand. Our financial support makes sure you have everything you need to positively transform the lives of children and young people in your care.

## Weekly Allowance for Foster Carers

As a foster carer, you receive a weekly allowance to cover the costs of caring for a child. This allowance is based on your skills and experience as a foster carer, to match your dedication and expertise.

- ❁ **Skills Level 1:** Every new foster carer starts with an allowance of £130 per week. This is the base level for those beginning their fostering journey.
- ❁ **Skills Level 2:** With additional training and experience, you can progress to higher skill levels. Our skills Level 2 foster carers earn £200 per week.
- ❁ **Skills Level 3:** Our Skills Level 3 foster carers earn £375 per week.

Our Skills Level payments can be supplemented to suit the more experience you gain. We offer:

- ❁ A Specialist Premium whenever you care for a child or young person with a disability or behavioural needs. We pay £200 per week on top of your skills fee as we know you're putting in additional time to help a child whose needs are more complex.
- ❁ Emergency Support of £100 per week, for up to 4 weeks. This applies whenever you offer emergency care, or help a child for longer than the sleepover time arranged. Helping a child in an emergency might only last a couple of nights. For those instances, we pay our Emergency Support fee pro rata.
- ❁ Care shouldn't have to stop when a young person turns 18. If you're caring for a young person who'd like to stay with you over the age of 18, we'd love to support your household. Receive 50% of your skills based fee for anyone Staying Home.
- ❁ If you're caring for a child on a day care rate, this is paid at £9.50 per hour. We're proud to have an incredibly generous day care rate.



## Did you know?

**Foster carers benefit from favourable tax conditions, and National Insurance credits which count towards a pension?**

For the full details and to learn more about our finances, download our Finance Guide.

[Click here](#)

### Weekly Allowance for the Child or Young Person

We also offer an age-related weekly allowance for the child or young person in your care. This allowance covers all expenses related to the child's care. This might look like food, travel, and after-school activities.

Each week, you receive a combination of your skills level, and the weekly allowance.

- ✿ Jennifer is caring for Aidan, who is 14 years old. Due to his age, Jennifer receives a £213 age-related allowance plus £45 for age-related skills each week. This means Jennifer earns a total of £388 per week.

View more examples, and full breakdown of fees in our finance guide.

[Available for download here.](#)

### Additional Financial Support

Our support for you doesn't start and end with a weekly allowance. We want to make sure that you're prepared for everything, from the everyday tasks of clothes shopping to memory-making holidays.

This looks like:

- ✿ Annual clothing and uniform allowances to keep up with growth spurts, ink stains, and the latest fashion trends. We offer up to £180 per young person.
- ✿ A birthday celebration allowance so you can help the child or young person in your care feel special! This can be up to £249 per year to sort gifts, trips and unforgettable experiences.
- ✿ Holiday allowance of up to £498 per year.

### Spending more time together

Like any rewarding work, feeling refreshed and relaxed yourself is essential. We offer all of our foster carers 14 days paid annual leave, which they can use at any time. Any children in your care would be paired with a respite foster carer for sleepover care. Want to spend the holiday together? We pay all annual leave dates, regardless of if you use it for yourself, or as a fostering family. We call our payment for holidays with the children using your annual leave a Time Together bonus.



# Local Training for Foster Carers

It takes a lot of knowledge to spread the magic of fostering. Fostering is a wonderful chance to learn something new, while helping others. You might already be a parent, or work with children. Our training will give you the overview of the care system, and how to communicate with a child on good and bad days.

We provide training that's easy to understand. Even better, it's personalised to answer your fostering queries. Everyone needs their own training plan to feel confident as a foster carer. From the start, you'll receive all the training you need, and your learning doesn't stop there. Beyond our mandatory training, you'll have chances to further your knowledge. Match your knowledge and experience to become the best foster carer you can be.

## Preparation for Fostering Course

Before you can be approved as a foster carer, you'll attend a complete preparation training. This course equips you with the basic skills and knowledge needed to start your fostering journey confidently.

## First Year Support

In your first year, we'll help you complete your Training, Support, and Development Standards (TSDS) within 18 months. This foundational training will open up more freedom for you to foster a wider range of children in Barnsley. The more training you carry out, the more skills and ability you have to care for children and young people.

## Get Paid for Your New Skills

As you complete more training, you can showcase a greater range of skills. Our skills-based payment system means that you can receive higher fees in line with your knowledge and experience. We really appreciate that fostering is a role that requires recognition. Most of our foster carers are paid at Skills Level 3, which is £375 per week.

## Fully Funded Diplomas

We offer a fully funded Level 3 diploma. A diploma in Working with Children can support your professional development. We'll help you with all funding and are proud to have such a qualified community of foster carers in Barnsley.

## Ongoing Learning Opportunities

Learning doesn't stop once you start fostering. We offer continuous professional development. Workshops, online courses, and support groups will help you stay updated on the latest practices. You'll also have the chance to share experiences with fellow carers. Our resources include:

- ❁ **Training Courses:** Access a variety of in-person and online courses designed to enhance your skills.
- ❁ **POD eLearning Platforms:** Utilise our partner platform with an exclusive Barnsley login. Learn from the professionals on your own schedule.
- ❁ **Thousands of topics:** There's no such thing as being overtrained! We have courses to match all kinds of care.
- ❁ **Specialist Training:** Participate in specialised training programs, such as the Fostering Lasting Attachments Group (FLAG) training.
- ❁ **Research in Practice:** Get access to cutting-edge research. This can inform your fostering practices.

**“The training with [Fostering Barnsley’s] online platform is great, and the trainers have been very knowledgeable and friendly.”**

**-Farah, foster carer**

**Want to learn more about training?**

**Or have a question about fostering? Contact our team today- you can book a call at a time to suit you.**

**Click here**



# Getting Started – Your path to fostering

You might have been thinking about fostering for a week, a month, or years. We know that the process to become a foster carer can look daunting. That's why we're here to reassure you that our process is easy and not too drawn out- all to make sure you feel confident to share the magic of fostering. Think of the fostering process as 5 easy steps:

## Step 1

### Schedule a Call

The first step is to reach out to us by booking a scheduled call back. During this call, you'll speak with our friendly support team. We'll provide information about fostering and answer any questions you may have. No question is silly, and we're happy to help.

**You can do this step right now! [Click here to see our calendar and book your call back with our team.](#)**

## Step 2

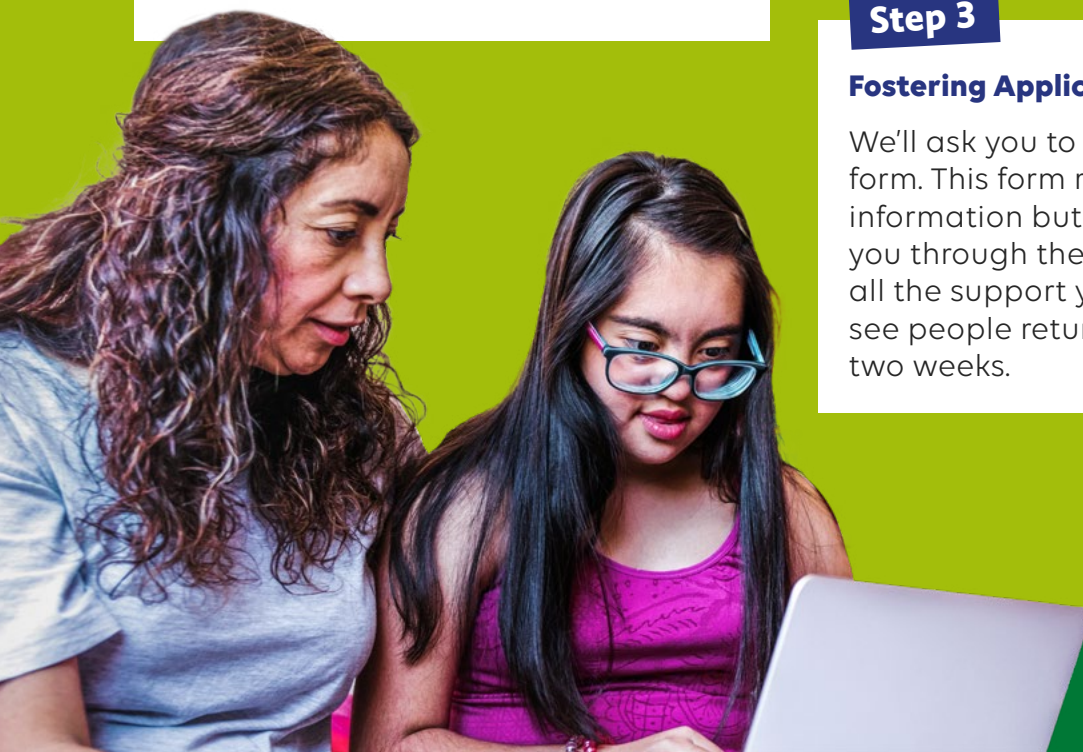
### Home Visit

A member of our fostering recruitment team will visit your home. This is a chance to meet us in person, and you might be meeting your assessing social worker. We'll talk about fostering in more detail. This visit helps us understand your motivation for fostering and gives you a clearer timeline of your process.

## Step 3

### Fostering Application

We'll ask you to fill out an application form. This form requires detailed information but our team will guide you through the process and provide all the support you need. We normally see people return the form within two weeks.



## Step 4

### Assessment Process

The assessment process typically takes four to six months to complete. Your dedicated social worker will visit your home regularly to gather detailed information about your family, lifestyle, and suitability to foster. This includes:

- ❁ **Preparation training:** You'll carry out training to prepare you for the fostering role. Topics to cover include the role and expectations of a foster carer, child development, managing behaviour and the impact of trauma.
- ❁ **Background checks:** A full Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and medical assessment.
- ❁ **References:** Personal references from people who know you well, your employer and, if you have children, your children's school.
- ❁ **Home safety check:** Ensuring your home environment is safe and suitable for a foster child.

## Step 5

### Fostering Panel

After the assessment, your social worker will compile a comprehensive report, known as a Form F. You will be invited to attend a panel with our team, where your Form F will be presented and we'll ask you a few questions. The panel will review your application and make a recommendation on your suitability to foster. It's not scary, we're a friendly bunch!

### Approval and beyond

After an approval at panel, you'll become an approved foster carer. This means receiving a detailed induction and meeting your supervising social worker. Your supervising social worker is a dedicated point of contact for your fostering career.

### What about matching?

You might be wondering how we match children and foster carers. Our team carefully considers your skills, experience and personality. Once we've found a child we think will be a good fit for you, you will get some more information and decide whether you want to move forward with the placement. You will be involved through the whole process and can always say no to a match. Once you're happy, your supervising social worker will help with introductions, preparation and check ins. There's only one thing left after that: celebrate the magic of fostering!

**“We received the phone call from our assessing social worker to advise we were officially foster carers for Barnsley. Whoop whoop! We were so excited to receive the phone call, and I giddily phoned my partner... we enjoyed telling everyone about how different our lives would become.”**

**- Duncan and Edward, foster carers**

**Ready to start  
the journey?**

**Click here**

# Already a foster carer? Transfer to us.

Are you thinking about transferring to Fostering Barnsley from your current fostering provider? Join our friendly fostering community in Barnsley and experience the support and dedication we offer year-round. You can transfer to us at any time. We'd love to welcome you to our brilliant community of Barnsley carers.

## Why transfer to Fostering Barnsley?

### Keeping Barnsley Kids in Barnsley

We're so proud of our community in Barnsley. We want Barnsley to be home to children and young people throughout their growth. We strive to keep children in care close to their familiar surroundings. Entering care can be stressful, and having friends or regular activities nearby can ground a child. By transferring to us, you help make sure that children remain near their friends, schools, and family, maintaining important connections and stability. We fully fund events for our fostering community, so you can celebrate our fantastic children and young people year-round.

### Local Support and Training

Fostering can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also have its challenges. Our experienced local team is here to provide the support you need. With comprehensive training and resources right on your doorstep, you can continue to grow and excel as a foster carer. We have fantastic connections with POD and The Training Hub so you can access classes on your timetable.

### Smooth Transition Process

We understand that transferring to a new fostering service can seem daunting. That's why we've streamlined our transfer process to make it as smooth and straightforward as possible.



**“We love Mockingbird! There’s always someone there when you need a shoulder to cry on, or someone to laugh with. Our hub carers are great and our lad loves going to sleepovers with them. He has an awesome time and we get quality time with our birth daughters.”**

**-Ellen and Joe, foster carers**



## **Community and Connection**

When you join Fostering Barnsley, you become part of a supportive and welcoming community. Our foster carers are the heart of our service, and we celebrate their hard work and dedication. We never want you to feel alone during your fostering experience!

## **Foster Carers Association**

Foster Care Associations (FCAs) provide support and information for foster carers across the country. Our association hosts social events and activities for our fostering families. They also provide training and advice. You can become part of a fostering network to connect and share experiences with others.

## **Mockingbird hubs**

Mockingbird constellations are recognised communities that link 8-10 fostering families within a local area. We have 3 Mockingbird Hubs currently around Barnsley, with plans to create a 4th. Our Mockingbird communities meet up year-round to offer sleepovers, events and a friendly face (or 10) that understands your fostering journey



**“I’ve recently moved from an IFA (independent fostering agency) to fostering with Barnsley. I have found it extremely rewarding, and love to see the children reach their full potential.”**

**- Lucy  
recently transferred  
foster carer**

## **Financial Benefits**

We offer competitive financial support to foster carers transferring to us, including:

- ❁ **Weekly Allowance:** An average of £683 per week, covering the essentials for the children in your care.
- ❁ **Skills-Based Payments:** Existing foster carers may qualify for additional payments ranging from £200 to £375 per week, based on your skills and experience.
- ❁ **Holiday Support:** Take 14 days of paid annual leave, or holiday with the children in your care, and receive our Time Together bonus payment. You never lose annual leave allowance- we want to make sure your time is rewarded.
- ❁ **Emergency Fostering:** Receive an additional £100 per week for up to 4 weeks for unplanned home matches.
- ❁ **Specialist Premium:** An extra £200 per week for caring for children with complex health or behavioural needs.
- ❁ **No waits between matches:** You won't be left for long periods of time without a match.

**Are you ready to make a real change in your local community?**

Call us today for a short call with our team where we'll book in your Home Visit. We always fasttrack existing foster carers. The sooner and more smoothly we can action your transfer, the sooner we can welcome you to our magic community.

**Book your call**

# Next Steps

We hope you feel inspired to join us! We cannot wait to welcome you to our community. Our foster carers are invaluable: the more carers we have, the more stable and loving homes we can create for Barnsley's children and young people in care. Join us and experience the magic of fostering.

**Ready to join  
the magic?**

**Book a call with our team today!**

**Phone:**

01226 978600\*

**Email:**

[support@fosteringbarnsley.co.uk](mailto:support@fosteringbarnsley.co.uk)

**Website:**

[www.fosteringbarnsley.co.uk](http://www.fosteringbarnsley.co.uk)

\*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.  
6pm evening appointments available on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will aim to respond  
to messages within 1 business day.

**Book a call back**





**“Being a carer can be challenging, but to see a child in your care flourish, become more confident, and have more self esteem before moving on is wonderful. To know you were a part of that is magic.”**

**- Monique, foster carer**

