

Hello,

FOSTERING NEWSLETTER



Hello!



**Welcome to Leicestershire's Christmas Edition of the
'Thinking about Fostering' Newsletter** 🎅 🎄



For those of you who are new here, I'm Denise, the fostering team manager and I make sure that whether you're at the beginning of your journey or fostering regularly, you are supported and listened to. I work with foster carers, birth children of families who foster, and care leavers.

Whether you're new to the newsletter or if you've been here a while, I hope you're well and fully equipped for Christmas and the New Year!

Our newsletter is for the many people who are 'thinking about fostering'. It's a massive decision to make. There are lots of different things to consider including your family, space at home, and what time you have available, just as a start!

At Leicestershire County Council, my team are here to help, advise and support you with information that will help you to decide if, and when, fostering may work for you. We are not here to encourage you to foster, but more to support you to decide if now is the right time for you to progress.

So, we'll be sending out case studies, stories of people's experiences of the application process and subsequently becoming carers along with many other interesting facts straight to your inbox - enjoy!



A Rollercoaster of a Ride, a Skateboard of a Journey!

The John Lewis advert has raised the profile of fostering this Christmas! We'd like to thank them for helping draw so much attention to the cause and highlight the desperate need for foster carers, not only in Leicestershire but across the UK.



In case you haven't seen it, we've done our own video in line with John Lewis' message this Christmas. Our version features a young person snaking his way through the skatepark while wearing a 'Fostering Leicestershire' t-shirt. It also displays messages about fostering locally.

You can take a look on our [website](#), our [Facebook](#), or Leicestershire County Councils [TikTok](#), or [Instagram](#) accounts.

You could really help us by sharing our posts and getting the message out there.

The Fostering Process

Your
Fostering
Journey



No matter the twists and turns you might face on your fostering journey, we are here to help.

We've simplified the process of fostering into four steps:



Step 1

Initial Enquiry

Have a friendly chat.

Time Frame:
As long as you need.

 **Fostering**
Leicestershire.com

If you want to know more about fostering with us, we'd love for you to get in touch.

You can:

- Call us on **0116 305 05 05**, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm.
- Call or message us on WhatsApp **07923 230 856**, every Tuesday, between 5pm-8pm.
- Text WEAREFAMILY to **60777**.
- Come to our 'Find out About Fostering' events.

Find us on Facebook

[**@fosteringleicestershire**](#)

- Read our newsletter – but you already know that!

If we're all ready to go then we can get started (we collect paperwork etc) – if you need more time, then you can come back to us at a later date.

We collect your details and complete mandatory checks.

After you have submitted your application, we'll request checks and references.



Step 2

Home Visit

We visit you in your home to talk in a little more detail about you and your interest in fostering.

Time Frame: As long as you need.

 **Fostering**
Leicestershire.com

After you've found out a bit about fostering and got in contact with us, you can book an 'initial visit' which is where a member of our team visits you at home to talk in more detail about you and your interest in fostering.

We'll arrange a suitable time to visit you in your home, where we want you to feel comfortable and relaxed.

The visit also provides you a further opportunity to ask any questions and help you decide if fostering is right for you and your family.

It's nothing to worry about, we want you to feel at ease and just chat to us over a cuppa (and some biscuits if you're offering!)



Step 3

a Application

We collect your details and complete mandatory checks.

b Skills to foster training, social worker allocation and further training

We kickstart your journey with a 'skills to foster' training course, then move you onto further in-depth training.

Time Frame: The whole of step 3 takes between 2 and 6 months

 **Fostering**
Leicestershire.com

We kickstart your journey with a 'skills to foster' training course, which runs flexibly to allow for working hours and other commitments you may have.

You then move on to more in-depth fostering training, giving you the opportunity to hear from children in care and other foster carers. Fear not, training isn't limited to just this, we continuously invest in carers by providing **training and support**.

We also allocate a social worker to visit you at home, several times, to find out all about you. This helps us to find out the types of fostering you're most suited to, as there are a few **different ways to foster**.

Step 4

Approval and matching

This is the final stage of the fostering process, but the beginning of an amazing journey as a foster carer with Leicestershire County Council!

 **Fostering**
Leicestershire County Council



A panel will approve your application and we will carefully match you with the right child / young person.

Approval is the final stage of your application process but the beginning of an amazing journey as a foster carer with Leicestershire County Council.



Independent Visitors

"I couldn't be more appreciative of this scheme as I have met some amazing people along the way. I would definitely recommend this to other people"

- One of our incredible Independent Visitors



If you're not ready to commit to fostering, becoming an Independent Visitor could be your new year's resolution for 2023.

Independent Visitors give a few hours each month to visit a young person and take them out to do something fun. You can find out more about Independent Visiting **here**.

If you are aged 18+, drive and have access to a car, and think you could make a big difference to our children in care, give us a call on **0116 305 0505**.

Particularly, we are seeking more male Independent Visitors to be mentors and role models to our young boys in care in Leicestershire. Though we welcome all volunteers so please get in touch!

Useful Resources



During some of that relaxing time we are all longing for this Christmas (after the last minute shopping and stress of cooking!), why not have a read through some of our useful resources?

You can find an array of supportive documents on our [Fostering resources](#) webpage.

There are also some great podcasts out there that give real, honest perspectives from experienced foster carers.

Oh, and of course, some family film recommendations that will pull at your foster caring heartstrings:

- Instant Family - Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne foster three children
- The Blind Side - A loving foster carer (Sandra Bullock), and her family, help change the life of a young boy

Enjoy!



Signing Off for Christmas and 2022 – we'll see you in the New year!

If you're finding yourself ready to start your fostering journey and need help with anything, from finding out more about the process, to the different ways that you can foster to better suit you, our lovely fostering team are available to support you throughout the whole process.

We also hold 'Find out about Fostering' events, every three weeks, online. The next one is Thursday 15 December / Wednesday 11 January. You can find out more about our events [here](#).

For more information, please visit [FosteringLeicestershire.com](https://www.fosteringleicestershire.com) or call our team on **0116 305 05 05**.

If you'd like to find out a bit more about fostering but can't call the team during the day, you can also give us a call or message on **07923 230 856**, every **Tuesday between 5pm and 8pm**.

From all the fostering team at Leicestershire County Council, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Website: FosteringLeicestershire.com

Phone Number: 0116 305 0505

Email: fostering@leics.gov.uk



This message was sent to Abigail.Herbert@leics.gov.uk using [NewZapp](#). Follow this link to [Manage Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#).

POWERED BY

