



# Parent and Child

**Sometimes, in order to decide if it will be safe for a parent to care for their child independently, a Parent and Child placement is required. Often, this can be a young parent and their child.**

The parent will need your guidance, skills and experience to get through an emotional time in their lives and to ensure they are able to look after their child. You will care for, support and empower them to develop their confidence, parenting skills and to make positive decisions about their child's wellbeing.

Leicestershire County Council's Parent and Child Carers receive £660 per week (tax-free) as well as complete support, training and guidance from our Dedicated Placement Support Team.

### **What we need from you:**

- Be at home full-time or be able to do this once approved.
- Have a spare bedroom, for the sole use of fostering.
- Have relevant experience and skills to support and care for an adult and their child during a 12 week placement with you.
- Have no children under school age living in your home.

Your ability to empathise and guide a parent during a difficult and potentially life-changing time in their life will be needed, along with the confidence to work with the team to ensure the wellbeing of the child in your care.

### **You will receive:**

- £660 a week tax-free for this hugely rewarding role.
- Specialist training, ongoing support and peer support groups to guide you in your role.
- Full assistance from a dedicated team, with a 24/7 telephone support line.
- Regular support visits from social workers, health visitors and other professionals, where you will be part of a multi-disciplinary team.

This is a unique fostering opportunity for people who have the relevant skills and experience to provide a nurturing, safe and life-changing support to a parent and child in your home.

If you think you have the relevant skills, life experience, meet the requirements above, then please get in touch with the team. We would love to hear from you and can talk in more detail about this amazing opportunity.

**Parent and Child carers – making life-changing differences to lives – including yours.**

## Case study

### Jackie - Parent and Child Foster Carer

Before becoming a Parent and Child Foster carer with Leicestershire County Council, I worked in the NHS as a nurse, midwife and health visitor. When I finally retired as a nurse, my husband and I decided to foster children. In our second year of fostering we decided to try providing Parent and Child specialist placements; we both felt we had a lot of experience, knowledge and skills that could be used to support this role. Leicestershire County Council's fostering service provided us with a foster carer mentor who was experienced in Parent and Child placements, we also benefited from attending a specialist support group with other Parent and Child Carers who were great at sharing their own experiences.

There are so many types of Parent and Child placements, some are young teenage mothers who need a nurturing home to help them learn parenting skills to support their new baby. Other types of Parent and Child placements may be with older parent/s, whose previous child/ren may no longer be in their care; a court is now asking for a new assessment of their parenting abilities because their situation has changed, and they have made positive life changes.

It is a very rewarding area of Specialist Fostering; something that we are both proud to have supported. We have received excellent support from the children's social workers and supervising social workers...ours has been brilliant! Initially this type of fostering does require the foster carer to provide a high degree of supervision and support; but if good progress is made, this will become more relaxed. It is so important to build a trusting relationship between yourself and the parent/s; as you will need to provide regular feedback, and encouragement during their time with you. Our fostering records have helped the professionals and the court to make the right decision for the child's future.

We have seen the difference this type of fostering can make to people's lives – sometimes parents just need a helping hand...at a critical point in their lives to move forward. You could be that special person who can make a positive difference too, if you are interested please ring the fostering team to have a chat, you won't regret it.



“ Sometimes parents just need a helping hand...at a critical point in their lives to move forward ”

# Training and Support



**We believe that professional training and support is personal - personal to you, your current skills and experience, along with meeting the needs of your role at that time. We will encourage and support you to develop and enhance your skills throughout your career with us.**

**Leicestershire County Council will support you as a foster carer across the following areas:**

- Practical and emotional support from your own supervising social worker with regular fortnightly face to face visits and telephone support through the foster carer support line.
- If visits or support are needed in between regular appointments, this will be offered by the supervising social worker who is there to support you each step of the way.
- Engagement across multiple agencies and partners (such as Educational Psychologists, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and the Early Help Services) through the delivery of care planning.
- Our Virtual School will provide our foster carers with tips and strategies to help children in their care to get the most out of school and further education.

Specialised training tailored to support you in meeting the child or young person's needs.

Practical and emotional support to enhance your role and encourage further development.

The 'Virtual School' is a Leicestershire County Council service whose role is to improve the education of Leicestershire's children in care by supporting schools, foster carers and social workers to help children and young people to do their best.



As members of The Fostering Network we are part of an organisation that strives to improve policy and legislation for foster carers and children in care. Our membership provides our foster carers with access to lots of benefits, information and support too.

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# The application process

To become approved as a Specialist Carer you will need to be assessed as a foster carer. This process takes between 4-6 months and you can remain in your current employment if necessary, during that time. We will be flexible and enable you to make plans, learn more and make a considered transition to fostering, with our support.

Throughout the assessment process, you will be invited to training, which will further enhance and support your skills and provide an opportunity to meet other carers. Some Specialist Carers remain in their employment throughout the assessment process, but will then leave and fully dedicate themselves to the role.

Stage one of the process is where the checks and references are gathered. Stage two of the process is where you will be allocated your own social worker who will visit you at home to understand you, your skills and how best you may be suited to the role. We run these stages together and during this time, you will attend training to prepare you for the role and continue to receive bespoke training and ongoing development after approval.

## Panel

At the end of this process, you will attend our panel where a decision will be made to approve you as a Specialist Carer with Leicestershire County Council.



# What next?

**You may currently be in employment and considering a change. You may be looking for a new opportunity, one where you can use your skills to make a real difference. Whatever stage you are at in thinking about the Specialist Carer roles with Leicestershire County Council, then the Recruitment Team are here to help.**

**Call 0116 305 05 05 or email [fostering@leics.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@leics.gov.uk)**

We can answer your questions, provide further information and can arrange for you to talk to one of our carers so you can find out what it's really like, should you wish.

We can arrange to visit you at home to discuss the roles in more detail.

There is no pressure to progress, just a willingness to help you to decide if this is the next step for you.

**So, call us, email us, just get in touch, we would love to hear from you.**

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