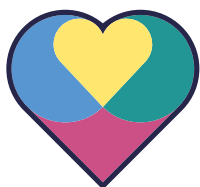




Families for Children Fostering Service Information Pack



families
for children



Our Vision

To improve the lives of vulnerable children in Glasgow by delivering and maintaining a high quality and effective fostering and adoption service.

Families for Children (FFC) is the adoption and fostering service for Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (GCHSCP).

FFC welcomes your enquiry regarding fostering.

As fostering is a life changing process, we encourage you to consider carefully the information included in this pack before following up with a call to FFC's recruitment team.

There is a national shortage of foster carers to care for children and young people who cannot live at home with their parents or extended family members.

Many of these children have experienced trauma prior to coming into care and fostering can be their first positive experience of family life.

Some children stay with foster carers for only a few days, while others live with their fostering family for the rest of their childhood and beyond.



The information that follows highlights different ways you can provide foster care. We hope this will help you to decide that fostering is right for you.

We look forward to hearing from you and will be pleased to answer any questions you may have in relation to your enquiry and to discuss the next stage of your journey to becoming a foster carer for Glasgow.



💬 We have been fostering for over 30 years and feel very lucky to still be part of their lives now they are grown up. 💬

Glasgow Needs Foster Carers



💬 I like that my mum and dad are foster carers because it's a nice thing to do as some children have no families and its sad. 💬



Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership (GCHSCP) is the biggest local authority in Scotland and the largest provider of foster care in Scotland.

There are numerous reasons why children come into foster care, including lack of parental care, child protection concerns.

There are more than 600 of Glasgow's children living in foster care.

Despite the trauma experienced by many children coming into local authority care, good foster care can transform children's lives and enable them to flourish.

Foster carers offer children a safe, loving and caring home and play a big part in supporting them to maintain links with their birth family.

Families for Children requires foster families for children and young people of all ages, from a range of backgrounds, and with varying needs.

More than 40% of our care experienced children and young people are in the 5-11 years age group, with many children in family groups of two or more.

It is a priority for FFC to keep brothers and sisters together, where possible, and we welcome applications from people interested in fostering family groups.

Criteria to Foster

- Applicants must be over 21 years old, but there is no upper age limit to fostering.
- Applicants do not need to own their own home but must have a spare bedroom.
- Applications are welcomed from single people and couples.
- Couples do not need to be married or in a civil partnership, but they do need to have lived together for a minimum of 2 years.
- Applicants must be a full-time resident in the UK or have indefinite leave to remain.
- Fostering applicants need to have the time to care for a child or young person, often on a full-time basis. Short Breaks carers need to be available on a part-time basis.
- Applicants will be subject to local authority, health, employment and criminal record checks.

If you are unsure you meet the criteria, please give us a call on **0345 276 5555**



Types of Foster Care

Foster carers commit to caring for Glasgow's most vulnerable children, providing them with a loving, secure and stable home.

Foster carers provide care in partnership with the child's parents and other agencies, to achieve the best outcomes for children.

There are 3 types of foster care:

- Short Breaks.
- Short-term foster care.
- Permanent foster care.

Please read the information about each type of foster care and you can hear from our own FFC carers talking about their experiences on our website. Also our Recruitment Team is available to discuss any questions you might have and help you consider what type of fostering would work for you.



Short Breaks Foster Care

Short Breaks carers offer part time care to children living with their families. A child might stay with a Short Breaks carer for a minimum of one weekend or perhaps two overnights per month.

Short Breaks carers offer an important service, providing family support through regular, planned, short breaks.

This enables families to remain together and often makes the difference in preventing a family breakdown that could result in a child being taken into local authority care.

Short Breaks carers also provide a service to children in foster care. This could be during times of crisis; or as part of the child's care plan; or to support a foster carer.

Short Breaks carers provide consistency of care for the child or young person and often become a key part of the child's care plan. Many of these children may have additional needs or disabilities.

Please click on the link below to hear from FFC Short Breaks foster carers.



Short Term Foster Care

Fostering is for children of all ages who can no longer remain in the care of their families. When children are placed in foster care, it may be because there has been a crisis at home or because of ongoing family issues that are difficult to resolve.

When children come into foster care, it is a priority for Social Work Services to work with the child and their family to support the child's return home.

It may take weeks, months and sometimes longer. During that time children reside with Short Term foster carers.

Whilst some children return home to their parents or extended family members, a significant number cannot return home. Those children remain in foster care while plans for permanent foster care or adoption.

Short Term foster carers provide the child with a loving, secure, stable and nurturing home environment in which the child's social, physical, intellectual, cultural and emotional needs are met.

Short Term foster care is a partnership with the child's family and other agencies, such as health, education and other social work services. These foster carers support the child to attend regular family time with their parents and brothers and sisters.

Short Term foster carers attend a variety of meetings and appointments relating to the child's care plan. As this role is a busy and demanding one, foster carers need to be flexible and available during the day.

Whilst Short Term foster carers often describe how hard it is saying "goodbye" to children, they commonly report how rewarding it is to get to know them and helping them through a difficult time in their life.

Please click on the link below to hear from FFC Short Term foster carers.



Permanent Foster Care

Permanent foster carers provide care for children and young people who are unable to return to the care of their birth families.

Permanent carers commit to caring for children and young people throughout childhood into adulthood. Permanent foster carers and the children in their care, continue to be supported by Social Work Services with the foster carers having more input in decision making in relation to their day to day care.

There is a careful matching process between child and the Permanent foster carer. Like Short Term foster carers, Permanent foster carers work in partnership with health, education and other services to ensure that children and young people reach their potential.

This might include supporting the child or young person's family time with parents and/or brothers and sisters. To be a permanent carer, experience of caring for children is key.



💬 I've been with my foster carers for over 10 years and I know I will be with them as I grow up.

It means a lot, knowing that there is always someone there when I need them. 💬

Please click on the link below to hear from FFC Permanent foster carers.



What support do foster carers receive?

- A dedicated Supervising Social Worker is assigned to each foster carer or fostering family
- Regular visits and supervision sessions by a designated Supervising Social Worker
- Membership to FFC Foster Carers' Support Group that meets regularly
- Peer support from approved and experienced foster carers
- Access to training courses and materials through FFC's Learning and Development Team from preparation to post approval stage.
- Out of Hours Support
- Membership of The Fostering Network: www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk



Frequently Asked Questions

Do foster carers get paid?

Full time foster carers are paid fees and allowances for a child's day to day needs. Details of these can be found at www.fosterglasgow.org

Our social workers will be happy to discuss this with you have any queries regarding this.

Can I work and be a foster carer?

Foster care is a demanding role that requires flexibility. For some types of foster care, it is possible to continue working.

Short Breaks carers are often able to combine working with planned regular periods of caring for children.

I have not had a child of my own, can I foster?

Yes, FFC needs people with different life experiences including those who have children and those who have not.

I'm a smoker, can I foster?

FFC has a legal duty to safeguard children and young people in all aspects of their life; including their health and welfare.

As positive role models to children, it is important foster carers' lifestyle choices, such as smoking and their alcohol consumption, should be considered in relation to the fostering role.

FFC does not place children under 5 years old in smoking households. If you are a smoker, our social workers will discuss FFC's smoking policy with you in more detail, at the time of your enquiry.

You've read the information: do you think you have what it takes?

Can you care for children and young people who have often had a difficult start in life?

Could you support, nurture, communicate with a child, advocate on their behalf and include them as part of your family?

Are you willing to be part of a team, develop your skills and qualities through learning and training opportunities to help children flourish.

Then fostering is for you, so please get in touch.

Do you need more information?

If you have a question or would like more information, you can contact us in a number of ways:

Email
families.children@sw.glasgow.gov.uk

Phone 0345 276 5555

Write to us –
Families for Children
Ladywell Business Centre
94 Duke Street
Glasgow
G4 0UW

www.fosterglasgow.org

