**Have you considered Fostering?**

In support of Foster Care Fortnight (9-22 May) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service are asking people to consider fostering and becoming part of their community.

In support of this campaign the Fostering Service is looking back over the last two years and celebrating how members of the local fostering community supported each other during the pandemic while maintaining local connections for those who needed it most.

Each month, around 50 children and young people are referred to the Fostering Service with the greatest need being for homes for teenagers, sibling groups and children with disabilities.

**We’ve busted some of the biggest myths about foster care:**

***“I can’t afford to become a Foster Carer.”***

In addition to bespoke training and support, we provide all our carers with a weekly payment, plus generous allowances, and benefits.

***“I’m not the sort of person who could foster a child.”***

We welcome carers from all cultural and religious backgrounds, age groups, genders, and sexual orientations. Our children in care recently helped create a video explaining what they looked for in an ideal Foster Carer, which you can watch on [the Peterborough City Council](https://youtu.be/oRUIVPoYqvc) and [the Cambridgeshire County Council YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkJNraVXNq2oF5JBx2_Afw)

***“I can’t foster because I work full time.”***

Many of our carers do in fact have full time jobs. We offer many different types of fostering to suit different working and living arrangements. Learn more about **Emergency care, Time Limited care, Long Term care, Respite care, Link Care, PACE care, Supported Lodgings and Private fostering** on [the fostering webpage of the Peterborough City Council](https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/fostering-and-adoption/different-types-of-fostering) or [the Cambridgeshire County Council website](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/types-of-fostering).

Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are home to an active and established fostering community, offering plenty of local opportunities to meet up with fellow carers and other members of the team to share support and advice. With a calendar full of local events and activities for carers and the children they look after, several popular support groups across the county now offering both face-to-face and virtual contact sessions, and regular local training sessions delivered locally in conjunction with local services, new Foster Carers are always welcomed into a ready-made community of peers.

If you can provide a safe, loving environment in which a child or young person who cannot live with their birth family can flourish, please get in touch:

* Call 0800 052 0078
* Text FOSTERING to 60777
* Email fosteringandadoption@peterborough.gov.uk or fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
* Visit [www.peterborough.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/fostering) or [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)
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