

## **Make a difference – become a foster carer with Northamptonshire County Council**

Could you offer a looked after child a stable, loving home?

Northamptonshire County Council is looking to recruit more foster carers to provide homes for some of the 1,000 looked after children in the county.

There's a particular need to find loving families for sibling groups, older children and children with complex needs.

John Heron, of Northamptonshire County Council's fostering service, said: "Fostering a child can be challenging but our carers tell us it is also one of the most rewarding things they have ever done.

"All you need to make a great foster carer is the ability to be flexible, consistent, patient, tolerant and have an understanding of children's needs and development. A sense of humour definitely helps and a spare room in your home is essential.

"I would encourage anyone who has been thinking of becoming a foster carer to contact us for an informal chat to find out more."

There are many different types of fostering, including short term, permanent, emergency foster care, remand foster care, providing homes for siblings or even short breaks for parents of children with disabilities.

Northamptonshire County Council offers a full training and support package for its foster carers, and carers receive a competitive weekly payment which is higher than the government recommended rates.

There is no upper age limit for our foster carers, providing you have the physical and mental fitness to look after a child or young person, and you must have the time and living situation to foster a child or young person.

To find out more, visit [www.fosterme.co.uk](http://www.fosterme.co.uk), call 0300 126 1009 or text FOSTER to 80010.

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