

Renting and Fostering

**WE
ARE**
family

→ Information for Applicants

Renting is not a barrier to fostering, but you do need the consent of your landlord. Whatever type of accommodation you live in, you will need to have room for a child, including their own bedroom for them to sleep in. On some occasions siblings can share rooms, but not usually when they are over 10, and it is important that our children in care have their own space, where they can play, relax, and adjust to their new life. This information sheet is aimed at supporting your landlord to understand any implications your wish to foster could have on your tenancy.

The most important thing for children is that they have a stable and supportive environment because that is key to their wellbeing. Children in care need consistency and it is important that you are not planning to move around a lot, so are remaining in your current home where possible, and that there are no rent arrears or risk of eviction. Once you have started the fostering assessment process, it will involve an assessment of your home and living environment, as well as ensuring your income enables you to foster.

→ Information for Landlords

Foster carers play a vital role by caring for some of the most vulnerable children in our society, who are unable to remain with their family of origin. Leicestershire County Council is aware that landlords may require more information about what this could mean for their property. Whilst it is true that some children in care present with challenging behaviours, as the result of the trauma they have experienced, that is a minority. Foster carers have their own social worker to support them, and they work closely with a child's social worker, to ensure that very careful matching takes place before a child moves to live with any foster carer, which includes a full risk assessment.

Once someone is approved as a foster carer, they must inform their home, building and contents and car insurance companies. Leicestershire asks for written confirmation that the role of foster carer has been included in policies, and that those companies are aware of the number of children someone plans to foster, along with their age range. It is not common for this to increase premiums, which reflects the generally low risk fostering presents, in the context of property and/or belongings. As with any damage caused during a tenancy, your tenant is responsible for repairs.

If you have any queries related to this information sheet, you can call Leicestershire's recruitment team on **0116 305 0505**.

