

Welcome to May's Thinking about Fostering? Newsletter



I'm Denise, the fostering team manager and my job is to ensure that you're supported and listened to at every stage of your fostering journey, from finding out more at our events, or in our newsletters, to going through the assessment!

Our newsletter is for the many people who are 'thinking about fostering'. It's a huge decision to make with lots of different things to consider including your family, space at home, and what time you have available, just as a start!

At Leicestershire County Council, my team are here to help, advise and support you with information that will help you to decide if, and when, fostering may work for you. We are not here to encourage you to foster, but more to support you to decide if now is the right time for you to progress.

So, we send out case studies, stories of people's experiences of the application process and subsequently becoming carers along with many other interesting facts straight to your inbox.

Please feel free to get in touch for any further information, or to suggest content that you think could be useful for anyone thinking about joining our fostering family!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Foster Care Fortnight

Foster Care Fortnight™ is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and show how foster care transforms lives.

Foster Care Fortnight 2023 took place from 15-28 May, the theme for 2023 is #FosteringCommunities.

We'd like to share the different ways you can make fostering work for you and your family. So as part of our campaign for Foster Care Fortnight, we have produced a series of videos that showcase the many different types of fostering and the skills that you need.

You can see the videos on our [Fostering in Leicestershire Facebook page](#).



David and Janet's foster care story



Janet and David Amey from Charnwood are in their 80's. They have been fostering for 30 years and still continue to foster. David worked full time as a Prison Officer at Glen Parva and Janet worked mainly full time for the NHS. Last year they were commended for their contribution at the Carer's Recognition Event held at the King Power Stadium in May.

We asked David the following questions:

How many children and babies have you fostered over the years?

We've fostered around 700 babies and children over the years of all nationalities and ages. We've had Mother and baby live with us and children of all ages. We've been involved with all aspects of fostering including carrying out supervised visits. We've also been on school panels.

What made you initially think about fostering?

Janet and I had five children of our own. Our last child was quite a bit younger than our four other children, so we thought it'd be a good idea to have a child near to his age.

What do you love about fostering?

We enjoy their company. We involve them in our lives. We take them wherever we go be it to the social club or abroad on holiday.

What types of fostering do you do.

All types. We've had short term stays of just a few days. Others have stayed for up to two years. We've had up to three children at once. We mainly now cover respite care now as we like to visit our daughter and grandchildren in America. Last month we had two sisters on respite.

Was the application process easy?

Yes, it was straight forward.

Did you feel well supported?

Yes, we had the same social worker for over twenty years. She was more of a friend to us. We could call her and ask her for any advice if we felt the need.

Did you find it difficult to say goodbye when children moved on?

Initially it was hard, but we got used to it.

What would you say to people considering fostering?

Just find out more information. Have an open mind.

A number of online fostering events to find out more information are being held by the county council's fostering recruitment team. Anyone interested can register at [Find out about fostering events](#).

For more information about how fostering could work for you, call Leicestershire County Council's fostering recruitment team on 0116 305 0505, email them at fostering@leics.gov.uk or visit FosteringLeicestershire.com.

Fostering Quiz

We've created a short quiz that lets people know if they meet the eligibility criteria to apply to care for a child in need.

It takes less than a minute to complete and will reassure some of the misconceptions you may have about fostering!

Complete the [quick click quiz](#). Please feel free to get in touch to find out more or talk about your individual circumstances.

Increased Payments and Allowances

We are delighted that the Qualifying Care Relief payment has been increased. The Qualifying Care Relief fixed amount per household, per year, has been increased for UK foster carers to £18,140 (previously £10,000) in the recent Spring 2023 Budget.



The fostering, fees, and allowances have also seen an increase from April 2023! You can check the benefits out by viewing our [Payments and Allowances PDF](#), for a more details insight into the payments and allowances you can also see the examples of payments for our different types of foster carers at the bottom of the [payments and allowances](#) page, or view the [additional information PDF](#).

Website: FosteringLeicestershire.com

Number: 0116 305 0505

Email: fostering@leics.gov.uk

