

Hello,

FOSTERING NEWSLETTER



Welcome to October's Thinking about Fostering? Newsletter



Hi, I'm Denise, the fostering team manager. 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!

Denise

Case Study: Meet Foster carer: Ellie and her daughter Imogen



Throughout October we're celebrating 'Children of foster carers' month 2023!

Birth children of foster carers make a massive difference to those in care. They can really help the child/young person settle into family life, helping them feel welcome and loved. We spoke to one of our foster carers Ellie and her birth child Imogen about fostering alongside your own children.

We asked Ellie the following questions:

Who is in your family unit?

My husband, two birth children who are 8 and 10 years old and myself. We currently foster a baby who is 14 months old. I do not work as I am at home with the baby and you're not allowed to work if you foster babies as obviously the baby needs you.

How long have you been fostering?

We've been fostering for 5 years.

What made you want to add to your family?

I enjoy being a mum, but I'm a terrible housewife! 😊. It's nice having the flexibility and being there for all the children whilst also doing something fulfilling.

How did you prepare your family for having a new addition?

We were very honest. We explained it to our children using age-appropriate language. We talk to them constantly. We remind them that they and the child are important to us. We also involved the children in the whole process. They love having a foster brother to play with.

How have your birth children helped settle in your foster baby?

They've both been amazing, they treat them like their own brother.

What would you say to people who have children about fostering a child/children?

It's a personal decision that only they can consider, but if you're thinking about it, it's probably likely it'll be right for you.

It's a really positive experience for the whole family. We all get excited by the baby's milestones and that's lovely to share.

What support do you get?

I like the Council's activities that the children can get involved in. I really like my Social Worker, they do all they can.

We asked Imogen, the birth child of Ellie:

What's it like having another brother in the family?

It's strange at first, but it's quite fun. He can be a menace sometimes! It's lovely to give to another.

Do you get asked questions about the new baby in the family?

I'll answer questions if people ask, but I always think about his safety.

Are you sad when a foster brother/sister leave the family?

Yes, but it's not all bad, most of the time we see them again.

What do you love about having a baby brother become part of your family?

I love to play with him. He makes us laugh because he likes watching the washing machine. He also loves posting things!

An example of a payment if you fostered with us

There are several types of fostering that you can get involved with. One of the ways you could get involved is with Supported Lodgings. This would involve providing a room and helping a young person aged 16+ to gain independence.

Tim's story



Tim (56) works full-time but most days he gets home to cook up a meal for Mark and himself to share. They chat over the meal about their day together.

Tim says "It's simple really. If you like young people, understand some of the issues they may face and can just offer a helping hand then

this role is perfect for you. It's great to see them grow in confidence and go off into the world.

Tim receives £286.50 per week and does this alongside his full-time job.

[Payments and allowances](#)

Our upcoming 'Find out about Fostering' events

Our next in-person event is on the **12 October** at **County Hall**.

Our fostering team will be there to answer any questions alongside some of our foster carers. It starts at 6.30pm and finishes at 8.30pm. If you forget to register, just turn up 15 minutes early and we can register you in person. There is free parking in the visitor car park.

[Book in-person event](#)

We also have several online events. We have virtual events on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 1 November 2023**
- **Thursday 23 November 2023**
- **Tuesday 12 December 2023**

[Book online event](#)

We are now open late till 8 every Tuesday and Thursday!



Talk to us at your convenience. We are now open late nights every single Tuesday and Thursday until 8pm. There's no need to rush a call at work during lunch. We're here to answer any questions that you might have about fostering. Take your time. There are no silly questions, we're here to help.

You can also book a time for us to call you. If you're busy in the day, let us know a convenient time to call in the evening between 5-7.30pm.

Call us on 0116 305 0505.



Thank you...

Thank you for reading our newsletter. I hope you have found it helpful. Please remember that we understand that thinking about fostering can take some time.

We will NEVER pressure you to foster, just simply provide information to help you decide if fostering could work for you. So please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

Bye for now 😊

