

Hello,

FOSTERING NEWSLETTER



Welcome to December's Thinking about Fostering? Newsletter



Hi I'm Denise, the fostering team Manager. Welcome to our December's issue of 'Thinking about Fostering' newsletter.

On this, our last newsletter of 2023 I would like to wish you 'Seasons Greetings'. Our office will close on Friday 22 December 2023 and we will then be available on 27, 28 and 29 December between 9-4pm. We'd love to hear from you. Alternatively, you can drop us a line to fostering@leics.gov.uk

Denise



Come say hi at Fosse Park!



We'll be at Fosse Park on Friday 29 December from 9am till 6pm. We'll be in Food Central near Nando's, Zizzi's and Next – marked on this map with the blue heart. Come and have a chat!

Case Study

Meet Foster carer: Lyn

Lyn from South West Leicestershire has been a Short Breaks Foster Carer for over ten years with Leicestershire County Council. Her children are grown up, she has six grandchildren and a cockerpoo called Darwin.



What is a Short Breaks Carer?

A short break foster carer is someone who cares for a child with medical/additional needs in their own home for one weekend a month or more.

How many people have you provided short breaks care to?

Around 14 children long term.

What's it's like being a Short Breaks Carer?

I've had the same people on a regular basis and I've loved it. The children that visit love visiting. They're so unique. They've all got their own personalities. You're really helping the parent or carer as well. They're usually so grateful. You feel like you're making a real difference – they're learning your skills and values and they take it back home. I involve them in everything I do. I have a girl with epilepsy who's 20 years old and non-verbal. I've looked after her for 10 years. We do everything together. We love to bake. We have a real connection.

What job did you do before becoming a Short Breaks Carer?

I worked as a Homecare Assistant. It was tiring but so rewarding! I got so much out of it.

What sort of person would this role suit?

It would suit someone who is patient, who has empathy and energy. Someone who loves being around people.

How do you get paid?

I get paid by the day and I do my own tax.

How does it fit in with your family?

My children are all grown up and I have 6 grandchildren. The grandchildren love meeting them. It's been good for my family too. It's the most rewarding thing you can ever do. My family and myself benefit as well as the person I'm looking after as it has enabled me to work from home. This meant I could provide childcare for all my grandchildren when needed.

What support have you received?

Leicestershire County Council have been supportive. My social workers have been brilliant – they'll always call or email me straight back. You have to do training and this was very comprehensive.

An example of a payment if you fostered with us:

There are several types of fostering you can get involved with. One of the ways you could get involved is becoming a Supported Lodgings Plus carer.

Mike's story



Mike is a SLP+ (Supported Lodgings Plus) carer. He doesn't work, so he is available for Jack (16), the young person he cares for.

Mike takes Jack to college and supports him to gain as much independence as possible. Mike receives an allowance of £562.50 per week in addition to mileage costs.

[Payments and allowances](#)

Please call the fostering team on 0116 305 05 05 if you have any questions about the financial side of fostering or email fostering@leicestershire.gov.uk. We understand that figuring out finances is an important part of considering whether to foster and we are here to provide guidance.

Our upcoming 'Find out about Fostering events':

Our next in person event is on **31 January** 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 visitors car park. You're welcome to bring family and friends with you. They'll be plenty of refreshments and biscuits to go around 😊.

[Book in-person event](#)

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

- **Thursday 11 January 2024**
- **Tuesday 20 February 2024**
- **Thursday 14 March 2024**

[Book online event](#)

Thank you....

Thank you for reading our newsletter and I hope you have found it both interesting and helpful. If you have any questions at all or would like further information, please just give us a call on 0116 305 305 or email us at fostering@leics.gov.uk

With best wishes, Denise 😊.

