

Fostering Information

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Striving for excellence



What is fostering?

- Fostering involves caring for children in your home whilst their parents are unable to look after them.
- It is often a temporary arrangement whilst issues relating to the child's family are being addressed. It can also be a long term arrangement if there are no plans for the child to return home, and if there are no family members or friends who are suitable to look after the child.

Reasons for children being fostered

- Abuse by parents or other significant members of the family
 - Emotional
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Neglect
- Parent's medical illness or mental health issues
- Domestic abuse
- Drugs or alcohol abuse
- Parents struggling to cope with their child's behaviour, illness, learning disability or physical disability.
- Unaccompanied minors entering the country.

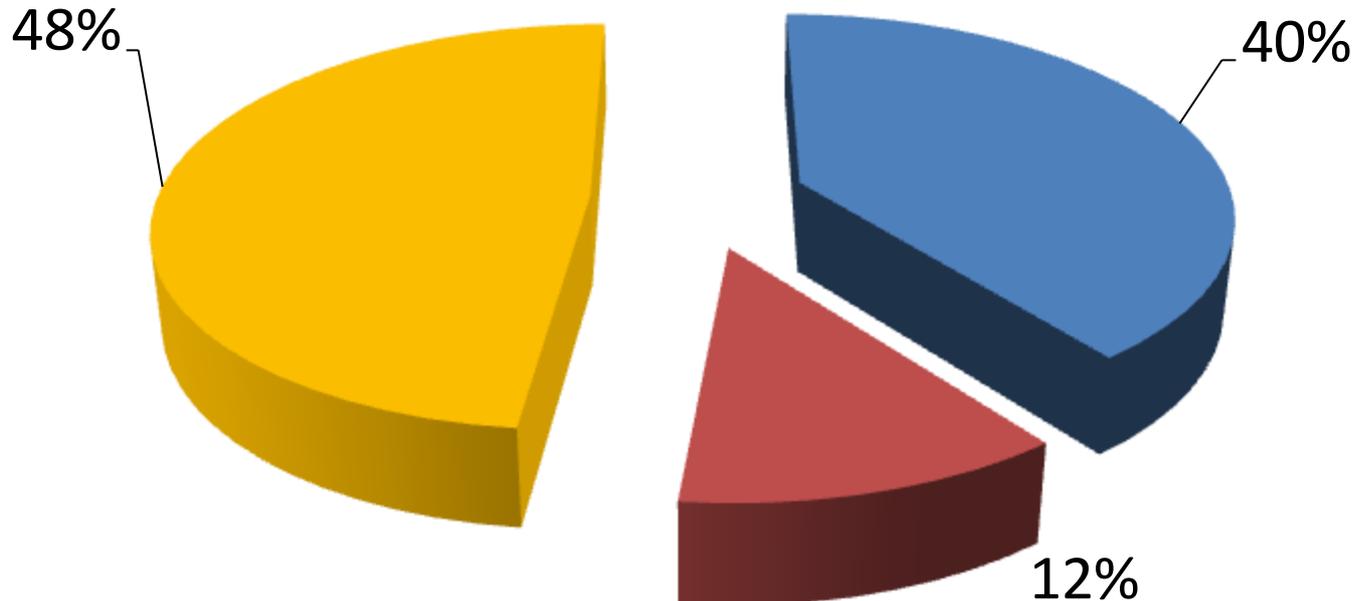
Children currently Looked After in Enfield

No of Children – 356 in care

■ White

■ Mixed background

■ BME



According to the Children's Commissioner's Report on Vulnerability of July 2017 -

- * Over half a million children are so vulnerable that the state has to step in
- * 670,000 children in England are growing up in 'high risk' family situations
- * Thousands of children are living with adults in treatment for drink or drugs
- * 800,000 children are suffering from mental health difficulties
- * Tens of thousands of children are involved with gangs
- * There are over a thousand new child victims of slavery each year
- * Many more children are under the radar, not being seen

Types of fostering

- Short term (This can last from a few days to several years)
- Long term (Permanent fostering until the age of 18 and beyond if the young person and the foster carer should want this)
- Respite (E.g. weekends, school holidays and other short periods, which can be planned and regular or unplanned)
- Parent and child fostering
- Specialist teenage fostering

What is the role of a foster carer?

- Provide a safe home environment that will protect a child from harm or abuse.
- Provide a warm, nurturing and stable home for a child or young person.
- Accept a foster child as part of your family.
- Work in partnership with professionals and the child's birth family.
- Advocate on behalf of the child and promote their education and health.
- Promote contact with the birth family and significant others.

Assessment and approval process

- The assessment process consists of 2 parts. These can be carried out concurrently.
- **Stage 1:** Initial enquiry, initial visit, 3-day preparation training, statutory checks and interview of referees.
- **Stage 2:** Full assessment. This consists of 7 – 10 visits to your home by a social worker, where if you are a couple, you will be interviewed together during most of the visits. The assessment takes approximately 4 months to complete. Your household members are also interviewed.

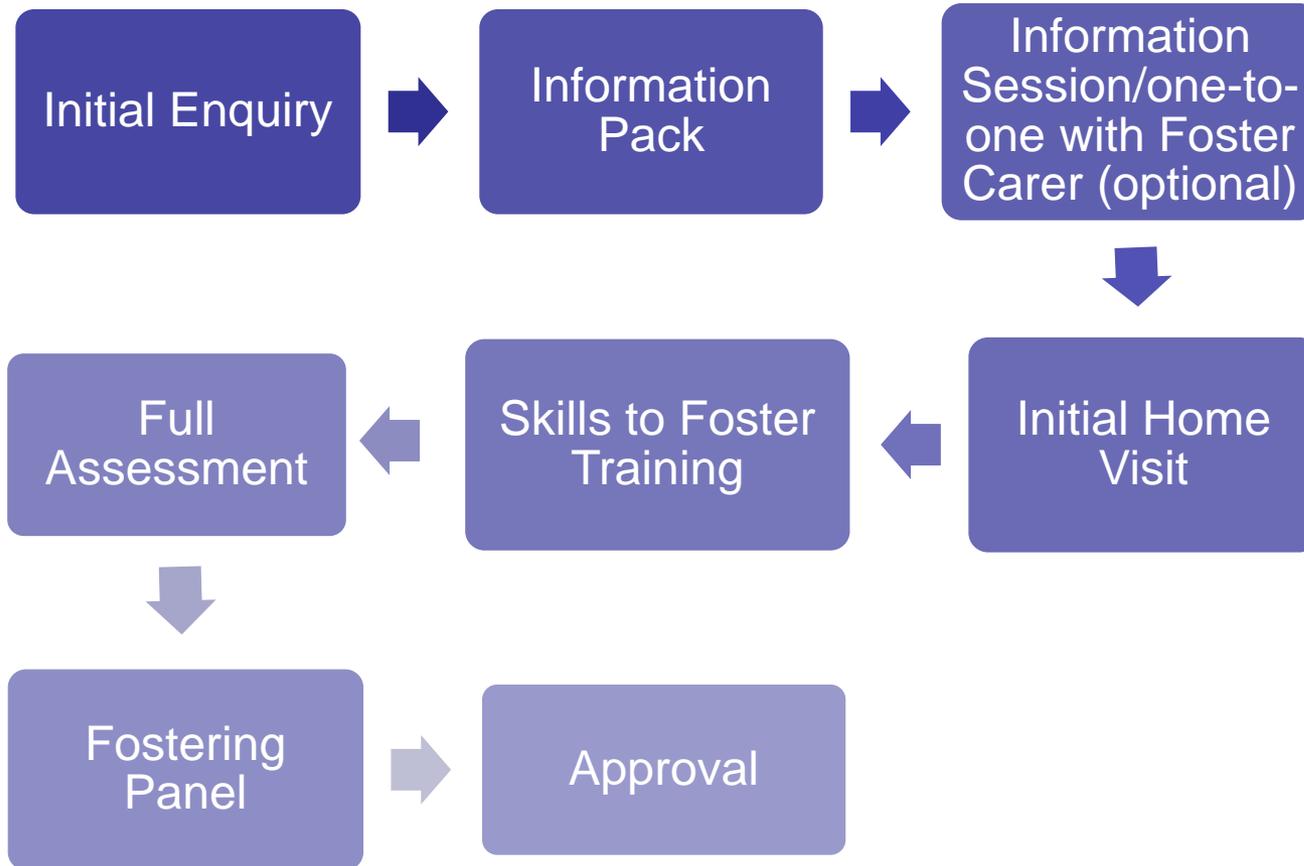
What makes a good foster carer?

- We are looking for individuals or couples who are flexible and resilient, and who are able to adapt their parenting style according to the needs of the child.
- A positive, caring and supportive foster placement will be the most important factor in helping foster children to overcome the difficulties they have faced in their lives, and to achieve good outcomes.

Why become a foster carer?

- Fostering gives you an opportunity to help a child in need to develop and to thrive.
- Fostering enables you to work from home and to develop your professional skills through the various ongoing training opportunities we provide.
- We provide an allowance for you to care for the child, in addition to a fee for you.
- We provide you with support and guidance, and opportunities to meet and network with other foster carers for mutual support.

Assessment & Approval Process



Assessment Criteria

- Spare room (to be able to fit a bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers and a desk for the child to do homework)
- Space in your bedroom for a cot / bed for a child aged 0 – 3 and their equipment.
- Availability, depending on the child's age and needs
- Having the support of your family and friends is helpful

Initial Home Visit

- To speak with everyone living in the household about fostering; including the children.
- To look around your home, in particular the room identified for fostering, to see if it is a suitable environment for a child. To ensure that there are no health & safety hazards in your home.
- To gain your consent for us to start carrying out checks (including DBS, medical and local authority checks).

Full Assessment

The full fostering assessment will explore the following:

- Your background including your childhood and experiences of being parented
- Previous and current relationships
- Your health, education and employment
- Your child care experience, parenting capacity and your capacity to foster
- Your ability to sustain positive relationships during times of stress
- Your ability to work as part of a team
- Your commitment to your own development

What happens next?

- Fill out a Notification of Interest form today.
- A member of our fostering service will contact you for a discussion.
- You can contact us to arrange a one-to-one session with an experienced foster carer.
- Any questions? Ask us today.
- Or ring us, email us or go through our website.

0800 038 1313 or 020 8379 2831

www.enfield.gov.uk



Thank you

Any Questions?