



Could you be
A LONG TERM FOSTER CARER?

Could you be a long-term foster carer?

Right now, there are children in North London who need a loving and secure family. We are currently looking for long-term foster carers who can provide a home for children and young people aged 6 and over.

- Could you offer a child a loving and secure family?
- Could you commit to caring for them on a permanent basis?
- Do you have a spare bedroom?
- Do you have drive, enthusiasm and a sense of humour? If yes, then you could foster and make a difference to a child's life by giving them a chance to grow up in your family.

What is long-term permanent foster care?

It means bringing up a boy or girl as you would your own child, to help plan for their future until they are 18 and beyond. You can share all their ups and downs from helping with homework, to celebrating their achievements and consoling over disappointments.

Why do children need long-term foster care?

Children and young people usually need to be looked after because of problems at home. Sometimes the family is in crisis, for example because of ill health or bereavement. Perhaps, the care given to the children is poor, or places them in danger and they cannot live with their family.

Some children do not



wish to be adopted and some wish to retain relationships with their birth families.

What is expected of a long-term foster carer?

In simple terms to care for a child or young person as a full member of your family and to support them with experiencing change in their lives. To encourage a child or young person to be healthy by ensuring the child visits the dentist and eats a healthy diet. To support and encourage a child's education and to provide stimulating activities for a child to participate in.



What role will a child or young person's parents play?

This will depend upon each child's situation. Children who need permanent care will generally have plans agreed and protected by a court order. The decision will already have been made that a child cannot be cared for by their birth parent. However, children in long-term foster care usually retain some relationships with their birth family.

What support will I receive?

You will receive preparation and training from the Fostering Team. After you are approved as a long-term foster carer you will receive:

- On-going support and supervision from an experienced social worker
- Out of hours support
- Ongoing training
- Payment for yourself
- Regular support meetings and the opportunity to attend informal meetings with other foster carers
- A comprehensive weekly financial allowance for the child



North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium

The North London Fostering Consortium is a partnership of five local authority fostering agencies: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington. We all work together to provide the very best possible service for children in care and for our foster carers. Working in partnership means we are able to process enquiries from prospective foster carers and find new homes for children in a more efficient and timely manner.

How do I find out more?

Just contact us at www.fosteringnorthlondon.co.uk. You have nothing to lose and much to gain. We'll send you more information and if you decide to go ahead, the next step will be for a social worker to come and see you and your family. You can talk more about what is involved and decide whether long-term fostering is right for you and your family.