



**"I must have died as
this feels like heaven"**
(Nine year old foster child
on entering foster care)

- be interested in, and able to talk to, children and young people
- have time, patience, lots of energy and understanding
- and, above all, a sense of humour
- be willing to work as part of a team with parents and social workers
- nurture and support a child to help them develop and grow
- respect, listen and communicate well with children
- be willing to learn new skills and undergo training
- have empathy, staying power and belief that your fostered child can reach their full potential
- encourage learning
- help your fostered child feel positive
- about their origins, religion and culture

Foster carers need to...

Anyone can apply to be a foster carer so long as they have the qualities needed to look after children who cannot live with their parents.

Becoming a foster carer

Fostering is a way of providing a family life for children who cannot live with their own parents. It is often used to provide temporary care while parents get help sorting out problems or to help children and young people through a difficult period in their lives. Often children will return home once the problems that caused them to come into foster care are resolved. Others may stay in long-term foster care, live with family members or friends of the family. A very small minority may be adopted and others will move on to live independently.

What is foster care?

Your first step could change a life forever!



**Guernsey
foster care**
shaping futures

www.guernseystercare.com

Becoming a foster carer is a team effort where a variety of practical and emotional support is given. You will be offered an extensive on-going training programme and a social worker will visit you on a regular basis to provide advice and support. There are also support groups for carers and regular social activities especially during the school holidays.

What support do foster carers receive?

This scheme provides short breaks, in partnership with parents, for children and young people with a disability whether for a day, weekend or during the school holidays.

Short break

This is probably one of the toughest areas of foster care but also one of the most rewarding. Here carers look after children and young people placed on remand by the courts.

Remand

Respite carers are asked to help look after a child for perhaps a day, weekend or slightly longer. They often support short term carers to enable them to have a well-earned break every now and then.

Respite

This is the 'forever family' for children who live with long term foster carers until they reach adulthood and are ready to live independently.

Long term

Here carers look after a child for, perhaps, just a few days, months or anything up to two years while longer term plans for their future are made.

Short term

There are a range of different kinds of foster care to suit both the families and children, dependent on their circumstances. These are:

Types of foster caring



Change a life,
call **713230**

or email

change@guernseystercare.com



www.guernseystercare.com



DE PUTRON
FUND MANAGEMENT

The process of becoming a foster carer

Stage 1 – Approach

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer give us a call for an informal chat on 713230 or complete the application form on our website; www.guernseyfostercare.com. One of our social workers will then contact you to talk a little more about your interest in becoming a foster carer.

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Stage 2 – Application

If you are keen to take it further we will then arrange a home visit to discuss this in more detail. This is when you'll begin to work out if this is really right for you and if there's anything stopping you becoming a foster carer.

If we are both happy to continue you'll be invited to a "Skills to Foster" preparation group where you will find out about fostering and what roles and responsibilities are expected. If we both agree fostering is still right for you, a more detailed application will need to be completed. Here, more rigorous checks are done to ensure your suitability – from checking criminal records, undergoing more in-depth interviews and taking up various references.

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Stage 4 – Post Approval

Once approved and formally registered, you'll be visited regularly by your allocated social worker who will help match your skills and family circumstances with children who need to be fostered.

Once you have a child in your care, your worker will keep in touch with the child's social worker and other professionals involved. They will make sure that you get all the help you need to provide a stable, safe and caring environment for the child placed in your home.

Now your foster care career begins. Here's where you'll start to experience the challenges and the enormous personal rewards that come with being a foster carer.

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Stage 3 – Assessment / Approval

A member of our team will then make a series of home visits, over a period of four to six months, to get a more rounded picture of how you would cope with the responsibilities that foster caring brings.

Your detailed assessment report will be presented by the social worker to the independent Fostering Panel who assess whether or not they think you are suitable to be approved as a foster carer. The final decision however rests with the agency decision maker – a senior manager of HSSD.

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