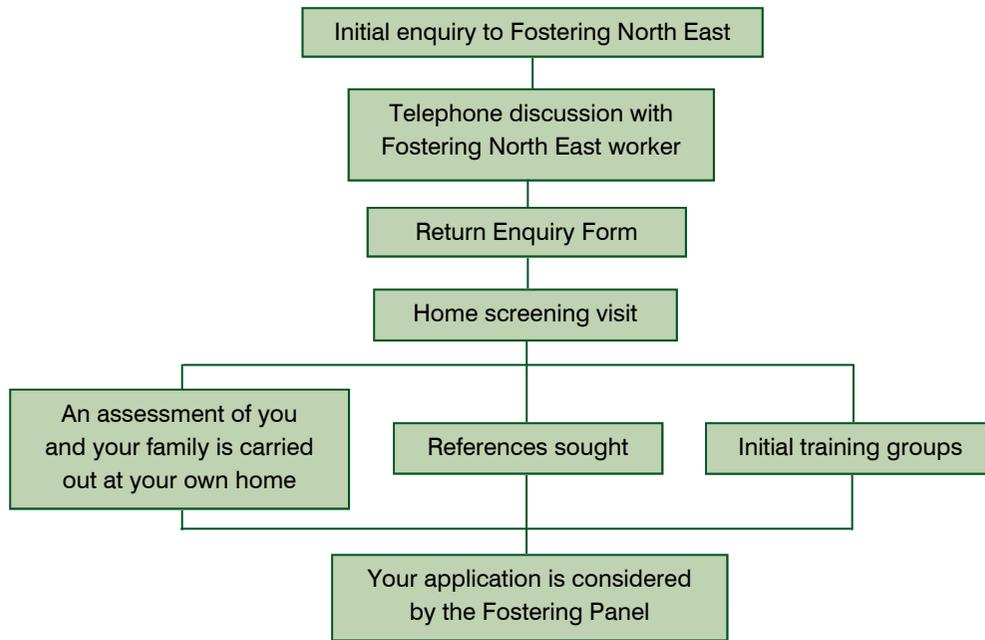


I'm interested, so what happens next?



Fostering North East is part of St Cuthbert's Care. They work in partnership with existing St Cuthbert's Care projects and Local Authorities to provide a varied range of foster placements for children in need.

If you would like to know more about fostering, please contact our fostering team at the address below or telephone 0191 228 0111.



St Cuthbert's Care is a charity working for the common good by enabling people to develop to their own personal potential

St Cuthbert's Care • St Cuthbert's House • West Road • Newcastle upon Tyne • NE15 7PY
Telephone : (0191) 228 0111

www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

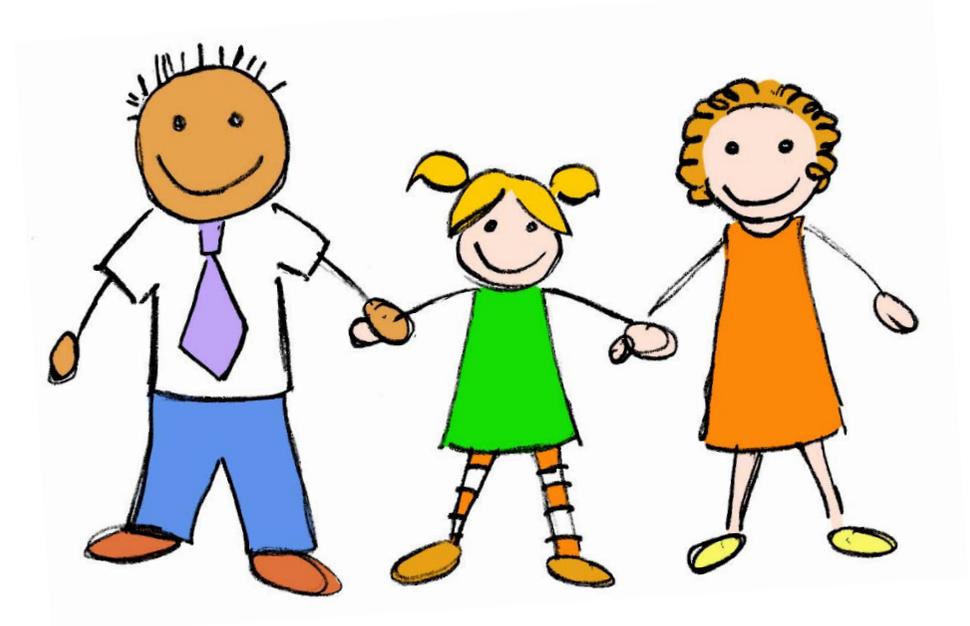
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Fostering

... what it really means



www.fosteringnortheast.org.uk

What is fostering?

Fostering is about providing a home for a child or young person who is unable to remain with their own family for any number of reasons.

There are several different types of fostering which are designed to meet the varying needs of the children concerned:

Long-term Fostering

This is where you take on long term responsibility jointly with the Social Services Department, and possibly with parents, for a child who is unable to live with her/his birth family. She/he is likely to have contact with members of her/his family, so you will need to assist and support this.

The child could be with you until the age of 18, when she/he may be ready to live independently, or stay with you under Staying Put until she/he is 21.

Short-term Fostering

This is where you care for a child for a period of time - from weeks to months, sometimes up to a number of years, while plans are being made for their long term future.

They will become part of your family for the time they are with you, but you will always know they will be moving on - maybe back to their parents, maybe to a long term family.

Children coming into short term care tend to do so in emergency situations so you will need to be able to respond quickly.

Short Break or Respite Fostering

This is when you look after a child on a regular basis - for example two weekends a month or during holiday periods - so that a relationship is formed with the child and with her/his family.

As a short break respite carer you may look after a child who is living in a long-term foster home or a child, possibly with disabilities, where parents need a regular break.

We also offer:

Parent and Child Fostering

Parent and child fostering is when a parent and their child are placed together with a fostering family in your home.

The aim is to support them with their parenting skills and to offer practical advice and guidance so they are able to provide the best nurturing care and skills for their child, with a view for them to live independently.

"Working within the care system can be frustrating and at times disheartening, but working within St Cuthbert's Care is neither. With an excellent back-up team you find the strength to go on. Often all you need is someone to listen to you and St Cuthbert's Care do that. The whole team look after you as a person as well as a carer."

Dawn, short-term foster carer

Could I be a foster carer?

We welcome foster carers who are couples, single, with or without children, and of all ages, working or unemployed and from all walks of life.

What would fostering do for me?

Fostering can be very challenging and at times you may be stretched to the limits of your patience and endurance but most foster carers find the experience very positive and tremendously satisfying.

What support would I get?

A foster carer becomes part of a team, looking after the best interests of the child or young person. We offer ongoing training and support to carers, your own named social worker and access to a 24-hour telephone support service.

Our fostering allowances are well above the average recommended minimum rate and are reviewed annually.

Will my family be involved?

It is very important that everyone living in your household, adults and children, are consulted and involved in the process.

Will we have contact with the child's birth family?

If you are offering short break fostering you will be working in partnership with the parents (or perhaps other foster carers, if the child is in long term care) and will often be able to build up a relationship with them.

When children are placed with you on a short or long-term basis, maintaining contact with their birth families is usually very important to them, and you will be given support to help you in this task.