



# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL FAMILY PLACEMENT TEAM- FOSTERING



**A LOVING HOME FOR EVERY CHILD**

# THE FAMILY PLACEMENT TEAM

The Family placement team is the service responsible for fostering in West Dunbartonshire.

Fostering Families are urgently needed for children who can not remain at home with their families.

Children who need a foster home come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Foster carers require commitment to caring for children, understanding and patience.

Some children stay with foster carers for only a few days, while others live with their fostering family for the rest of their childhood and beyond.

The Family Placement Team welcomes your enquiry regarding fostering.



# FOSTERING CRITERIA



- Must be over age 21
- Can be single or a co-habiting couple
- Do not have to own your own home. However, you need a spare bedroom
- Can be in employment. However, must have flexibility to meet the needs of a child
- Applicants will be subject to Local Authority, Health, Employment and Criminal Records checks.





# WHAT WE OFFER

- Each fostering family will have their own supervising social worker
- Post approval training, including child protection & first aid
- Membership to the Fostering Network
- Peer support and access to Support Groups and Quarterly Meetings
- Monthly Fee & Allowance







# *Foster Care*

## ✦ **SHORT BREAK FOSTER CARERS**

Short Break carers offer children and young people, short stays in their homes, usually on a planned basis. Short Break carers will offer existing interim and long-term carer's regular breaks on a planned and occasionally emergency basis. Short Break carers may also offer planned breaks to children still living at home but where there are difficulties and offering respite is part of the child's care plan to prevent the child from being accommodated.

## ✦ **INTERIM FOSTER CARERS**

Interim (sometimes known as SHORT TERM) foster carers look after children of all ages who can no longer stay with their own families. As an interim foster carer you may be asked to look after children for a few days or a few weeks. In some instances, children can remain in interim care for a year or two years depending upon their individual circumstances. Children may need to be looked after in foster homes for a variety of reasons such as and Foster Carers need to be welcoming, warm and confident people who will help children to feel safe and bring some stability into their lives.

## ✦ **PERMANENT FOSTER CARERS**

Permanent foster carers are required where it has not been possible to return a child to their birth family. When a child is placed with a family on permanent basis it is anticipated that the child will grow up with the foster carers and remain there until the time is right to move on to independence. One of the main objectives of permanent fostering would be to provide care for the child throughout their childhood and provide a safe and stable environment to allow them to support them to reach their full potential.



# *Foster Carer*

Caring for the child is just one aspect of the role of a foster carer. Of equal importance is their ability to work with parents and with professional staff in order to further a plan for the child.

When a child comes into short term /temporary foster care the priority is to work in partnership with the family to enable the child to return home. Children who see their parents regularly are those most likely to have better outcomes.

Foster carers should have an understanding of the difficulties that parents face and be non-judgemental. Carers will assist the child to maintain contact with their birth family. Despite all efforts, some children may not be able to return to live with their parents and another family will be sought for them who can provide either long-term care or adoption. The role of the short-term carer will be to help to prepare the child to move on to their alternative family.

YOU WILL FIND MORE  
INFORMATION ON OUR  
WEBSITE INCLUDING  
FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS AND FINANCIAL  
INFORMATION RELATING  
TO FOSTERING FEES AND  
ALLOWANCES.

