

If you are interested in Fostering, would like more information about Fostering and would like an information pack, please see the contact details below:

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# Fostering in Shetland



Children's Services  
Education and Social Care Department  
Shetland Islands Council





## WHAT DO FOSTER CARERS DO?

Foster carers in Shetland provide care in their own homes for some children who are not able to live with their parents.

Some children and young people may need to be looked after for short, or longer, periods of time due to family problems or illness. Sometimes parents have problems and request that their child be looked after. Regular breaks can be of great benefit to some families and they are able to stay together thanks to these regular respite breaks.

## WHY DO WE NEED FOSTER CARERS?

Some children and young people must live apart from their families for a time because they have been hurt or neglected or have found themselves in trouble.

The aim of the Social Work Service is to work with a child's own family so that he or she can return home safely. Foster carers play a vital role in helping children to stay in touch with their family and in helping children to return home. Children and young people who have not had the experience of a caring, structured home life benefit greatly from being part of a foster family.

Some children are not able to return home to their natural family and need a long-term foster placement to help them to grow and develop in a supportive family setting.



## WHAT SORT OF PROBLEMS DO CHILDREN HAVE?

Children and young people who are separated from their families often face many problems. They may feel rejected, angry or confused about why they cannot live at home. They may have learning and behavioural problems already. Older children and teenagers may have difficulties at school or behave in anti-social ways. They can place themselves at risk with alcohol or drugs and sometimes find themselves in trouble with the police.

Children who have been abused can experience a range of emotional and behavioural problems. Foster families need the resilience, flexibility and good humour to work through these problems with their foster child.

## WHO FOSTERS?

There is no such thing as an ideal family! All sorts of people from many different backgrounds with different life experiences foster successfully. You could be single, married or living with a partner, with or without children of your own.

## HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

Foster carers go through a careful assessment including Enhanced Disclosure Scotland checks, medical examination and an in-depth information gathering process. Training and preparation courses are intrinsic parts of fostering. Social workers with responsibility for foster carers offer regular support and advice.

An allowance is paid to meet the cost of caring for a child. For children and teenagers who are assessed as having complex issues an enhanced rate or fee may be paid.