

Fostering Myth Buster

Do I need a spare bedroom?

Yes, you will need a spare bedroom.

I have my own children living at home, can I still foster?

Yes, we would meet with your children and explore with them their wishes and feelings regarding fostering as a family. It is important to us that we hear your children's views too!

I don't own my own home, is that a problem?

No, to be a foster carer you can own your own home (with or without a mortgage) or rent or be in social housing.

Will my religion impact on me as being a foster carer?

Children are placed with foster carers who are required to care for the children and meet their day to day needs. Your religion will be explored with you as part of the assessment process and how you can meet your own needs related to your faith, and those of children with a differing faith. You will need to be open to discussions with a child or young person regarding differing religions including supporting them to follow their chosen faith. This may also involve discussing sexuality.

Can I be a foster carer if I have experienced mental health problems?

Past mental illness doesn't usually prevent you from becoming a foster carer. However, you need to be in a very stable place in terms of your mental health to foster. Your mental health will be considered as part of a medical process completed. You would need to carefully consider the potential impact fostering may have on your mental health when caring for children who have experienced trauma.

I take regular medication; can I still foster?

Any health conditions and medication will be taken into consideration as part of the medical process detailed above. You will need to be active and emotionally strong enough to cope with the demands of caring for a child.

Can I foster if I am a Disabled person?

We welcome applications from Disabled people. All applications are considered on an individual basis and we will explore with you your particular health conditions / disability and how you can care for a child taking into account your strengths and also limitations. A medical will also need to be completed as part of the assessment process.

Can I be a foster carer if I have a criminal conviction?

All criminal convictions will need to be disclosed. Historical minor offences usually do not prevent you from fostering. However, more serious offences related to children or a sexual offence will prevent you from fostering.

Can I be a foster carer if I have pets?

Yes, and children often really like this! We will need to meet your pets and discuss with you how they will be involved in the fostering family. We will also discuss health and safety issues.

Do I need to be a British Citizen to become a foster carer?

We welcome people from all walks of life. We would expect you to be a full-time resident in the UK however you do not need to be a British citizen. We will need to discuss your individual circumstances as we also need stability and security for young people.

Can I move house during the assessment process?

When you initially contact us, we would want you to be fully settled in your home and for you to know your local area well. We would not want to start an assessment and for you to move home during it.

I don't speak very good English, is that a problem?

You will need a good level of spoken and written English to be able to communicate with children and advocate on their behalf. You will be expected to keep daily records and communicate in meetings and work with other professionals. The assessment process will also require you to have a good understanding of the questions asked and to answer these as fully as possible.

Can I foster if I smoke?

We encourage you to give up smoking and you will not be allowed to foster under 5's if any household member smokes.

I am working, is that a problem?

It is possible to work but you will need to be available to care for children, including undertaking school runs, attending any training required, transporting to contact sessions between the child and their family, and meetings with professionals.

I'm in a same-sex relationship, can I foster?

Yes absolutely! For anyone in a relationship, we ask that it is stable and long-term.

Do I need to be part of a couple to foster?

No, you can be single. Providing you can offer a warm, stable home environment we would be pleased to hear from you.

Want to find out more?

Contact us:

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