

How to become a Parent and Child Scheme Foster Carer

For those new to fostering, Parent and Child Foster Carers are approved in the same way as other foster carers: five days of training followed by a family assessment will be involved. The process of the family assessment should take no longer than six months.

Currently approved carers who want to develop into joining the Parent and Child Scheme have supplemental training and an additional assessment process for an addendum report.

Want to find out more?

If you would like to have a discussion about the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme or any other type of fostering we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact

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“When a parent first arrives in your home they can be very nervous; you need to be able to put them at ease at the same time as setting down clear boundaries.”

Parent and child foster carer



North London Fostering Consortium
**Parent and Child
Fostering Scheme**
Information for foster carers



The North London Fostering Consortium provides specialist foster placements for parents and their child/children.

Parent and Child Scheme foster carers are specialist carers working for the boroughs of

Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey, Enfield and Barnet.

Their placement capacity is shared across the North London Fostering Consortium so as to minimise unintended gaps between placements.

Parent and Child Scheme foster carers:

- Have a parent and child/children to live with them in their home, generally for a structured 12 week period.
- Support and assess vulnerable parents and help them learn how to look after their child safely.
- Make assessments of both the particular children's needs and their parents' abilities in relation to these
- Work closely with Children's Social Care and other agencies, contributing views and evidence to the overall assessment.
- Have good communication skills, patience, understanding of parents' difficulties and detailed knowledge of good infant care.

Payments

Foster Carers providing parent and child placements under the North London Fostering Consortium scheme are paid:

- £850 per week for a parent and child placement, with the parent retaining responsibility for the costs of her/his and the child's food, travel, personal needs etc
- £250 per week between placements, for up to 10 weeks each year.

Respite support

The scheme guarantees each carer up to eight hours a week outreach cover for their placement, as and when continuous adult supervision is required. Further hours may be negotiated with Supervising Social Workers when urgently required. This is in addition to the required cover for support groups and training.



Parent and Child fostering placements enable robust assessments to take place when babies and young children are at risk of removal from their parent/s' care.

Placements make it possible to take longer term decisions for the child/ren's care as swiftly as possible, by providing sound evidence of the parent/s' abilities. Babies and young children remain in the care of their parent/s whilst these assessments take place, so their attachments are not disrupted.

Parent/s can show their abilities and potential for learning in relation to the range of skills needed for 'good enough' care. Through their day-to-day involvement in a learning programme with the foster carer, parents can be helped to appreciate for themselves their readiness or otherwise to be a full time parent.

Whatever the outcome of the assessment, both children and their parent/s can take forward learning from their placement experiences, which will help them face future challenges.

Career development

'Normal' foster carers, youth workers, family support workers and others who have experience of vulnerable parents and the safeguarding of their children find Parent and Child Fostering a career development opportunity.

The training for Scheme foster carers is accredited, providing UCAS points, and Scheme foster carers have access to additional training leading to recognised qualifications.



Children's Service staff will:

- Coordinate the operation of the scheme across the five boroughs.
- Assess placement viability before proposing you consider any particular parent and child placement.
- Arrange and chair the pre-placement planning meetings and the monthly review meetings during the placement.
- Facilitate the Parent and Child Foster Carer's Support and Development Group: every month relevant Social Care staff and the Scheme's foster carers will meet to share experiences and take part in further training.

Your Supervising Social Worker will keep in regular contact with you and visit fortnightly as well as attend all meetings, supporting your work and trouble-shooting as necessary.

The Assessing Social Worker will visit regularly to meet with the parent and child for the purposes of the assessment. The Assessing Social Worker will talk with you about your observations and assessment and how the information you provide will be used.

"With some parents you can see a real change when they grow in confidence and they realise they can look after their baby."

Parent and child foster carer

"At times you need to be able to say things as they are so the parent knows what they need to change."

"Of course, sometimes things don't work out well and if the child comes into care while the parent goes home this can be very upsetting. You have to hold on to the fact that you believe it was the right decision."

Parent and child foster carer

