

the fostering network  
the voice of foster care



# Fostering service membership





## Everything you need to know

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading foster care charity with the largest and widest membership — over 57,000 foster carers and over 375 fostering services.

We are the leading experts in the fostering sector and the place to go for everything you need to provide the best fostering service.

With four decades of experience in fostering, we understand the challenges of delivering a high quality fostering service that works for every fostered child and every foster family.

Our fostering service membership provides:

- Practice guidance and expert advice, helping your service to improve outcomes for fostered children.
- Resources and expertise to support your foster carer recruitment activity.
- Sector knowledge, keeping you informed of the latest news and developments in fostering.

# Practice guidance

We interpret government legislation and sector recommendations into good practice guidance and expert advice and support. Our work on issues such as delegated authority, safer caring, contact and education (to name but a few) helps to ensure placement stability for fostered children.

We deliver practice guidance to our members in the following ways:



online

Members-only **online resources**, including toolkits, guides, reports and information sheets.

Online **training courses** – easy to follow, engaging and interactive. All of our courses link to the *Training, Support and Development Standards* for foster care in England.



publications

Publications at **special members' prices**, all designed to help you provide the best possible care for children and young people. Popular titles include *Safer Caring: a new approach* and our *All You Need to Know* series.

**Free materials**, including a handy guide to benefits and tax credits, a handbook on contact, and our delegated authority resources (including a handbook and training materials).



face-to-face

Specialist support and guidance from our **expert staff** across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Training courses and **member events** on hot topics in fostering, all at special members' prices. Our annual conference is an essential event for everyone involved in foster care.



If your fostering service is a member of the Fostering Network, all staff members can access the whole range of membership benefits shown in this leaflet, including exclusive content on our website.

# Recruiting foster carers

We provide expert advice and resources to help you attract new foster carers.

We support our members' recruitment activity in the following ways:



online

A range of online resources, including reports, toolkits and guides. Our **Could You Foster?** website provides everything prospective foster carers need to know about fostering, including how to find their local fostering service.

Our **Attracting and Keeping Carers** newsletter, delivered to your inbox every other month. Each issue contains news and information on best practice and sector trends.



publications

**Specialist publications**, including *All About Fostering* magazine for your fostering information packs.

**The Skills to Foster** – the UK's leading pre-approval training course for prospective foster carers. Our assessment materials help fostering services assess potential foster carers on the basis of their skills, knowledge and experiences.



face-to-face

Local **recruitment forums** and peer-to-peer support and advice through our Recruitment Champions project.

**Masterclasses** for developing your recruitment and retention activity across social media.



Our annual *Foster Care Fortnight*<sup>TM</sup> campaign is the UK's biggest for raising awareness of fostering. Endorsed by celebrities and politicians, it generates UK-wide media coverage, providing a platform for you to raise the profile of fostering in your area.

*Sons & Daughters: celebrating the foster family* takes place every October, providing a valuable opportunity for fostering services to recognise and reward the important role that sons and daughters play in fostering. Acknowledging this involvement is vital for recruitment and can also improve retention.

# Sector knowledge

We provide insights into the national fostering landscape, including the latest news and developments.

We deliver news and information, and connect our members with each other, in the following ways:



online

Our thriving **online community** – bringing members together from across the UK to share experiences, discuss the issues that affect your work and take part in ‘ask the expert’ sessions.

Regular **e-newsletters** – our monthly members’ e-news is full of news, information and events from the world of fostering. Our policy consultation group seeks your views to inform our responses to government consultations.



publications

**Relevant and timely** publications, providing everyone involved in fostering with accessible, reliable and high quality information.

Our quarterly magazine, **Foster Care**. Each issue provides an informed and objective view on foster care and the related issues. The magazine has long been recognised as an important read for everyone involved in fostering.



face-to-face

Up-to-date advice and information from our **expert staff** across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Facilitated **regional and national forums**, and regular events on hot topics in fostering.



We are frequently approached by government to shape policy and comment on proposed legislative changes, and to ensure our members’ voices are heard at national level.

# How else can we help?

## **Block membership for your foster carers**

The vast majority of our fostering service members provide their foster carers with membership of the Fostering Network. For less than £1 per household per week, you can give your foster carers the independent advice and legal protection they need.

Take out block membership now as part of your foster carer retention strategy.

Find out more at [www.fostering.net/membership/foster-carer](http://www.fostering.net/membership/foster-carer)

## **Independent support for your foster carers**

Enhance your foster carer support by accessing our advice and mediation/independent support services.

Contact us to find out more.

## Get in touch



Log in or register at [www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net) to access our online community and members-only resources, and to make sure you receive our members-only e-newsletters.



You can also contact us to find out how to make the most of your membership:



**t** 020 7620 6400

**e** [membership@fostering.net](mailto:membership@fostering.net)

[www.fostering.net/membership](http://www.fostering.net/membership)

