

Foster or Adopt with Brighton & Hove City Council

Do you have the experience and enthusiasm to look after a local child?



Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

- Recruitment strategies – reviewed annually
 - Strategy takes account of profile of children, existing resources, capacity of the service
 - Dedicated managers – oversight of recruitment activity
 - Duty teams – fostering & adoption
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Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

- Range of recruitment material
- Specific worker – recruitment of BME carers and adopters
- Plan for recruitment events, good news stories, publicity events
- Fostering Fortnight & National Adoption Week

Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

Good links with press office

- Queen's Garden party
 - Public Servant of year award
 - BAHFTAs – double page Argus spread
 - Parent and baby carer – City news
 - Carers/ staff on radio
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Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

- Response to initial enquiries
 - Information pack/website
 - Information sessions
 - Initial home assessment visits
 - Preparation groups
 - Involvement of experienced carers/adopters/young people in care/birth parents/adopted adults
 - Home study assessment
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Could you Foster?

If the answer is yes - we want to hear from you



Here are three great events where you can meet staff and foster carers to find out more

12 to 25 May afternoons at Jubilee Library, Brighton

Saturday morning, 17 May

Outside Jubilee Library for free live street dance event

Tuesday 20 May

Special Information Evening, 7pm to 9pm
at Church House, 211 New Church Rd,
Hove, BN3 4ED

Please phone 01273 295444 if you would like to come along

The city council's Fostering team is always on the lookout for new Foster Carers for older girls and boys aged 10 and over from all our ethnic and cultural communities.

These children are at a crucial stage of their young lives and they need the care and support of adults who would be committed to providing them with a positive family experience.

Fostering is very rewarding and worthwhile. We pay a generous financial fostering allowance and it is something you can do in your own home.

If you live within a 20-mile radius of Brighton & Hove and would like further information, please call 01273 295444 for a friendly chat with our Fostering Team.

Call the Brighton & Hove Fostering Team for more information on 01273

CARING FOR CHILDREN & SUPPORTING OUR CARERS

www.fosteringinbrightonandhove.org.uk
E-mail: fostering.adoption@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

Fostering priorities

- Carers for teenagers, parent and baby carers, carers for siblings groups, BME carers, – however this has now had to be broadened

Adoption priorities

- Adopters for children 2+, adopters for children with complex needs or sibling groups, BME adopters, adopters outside B & H
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Fostering & Adoption Recruitment

Challenges:

- Prospective carers needing sufficient skills and experience
 - Housing in B & H – need for child/ young person to have own room
 - Need for sufficient time for the task– e.g parent and baby carers
 - Matching issues – needs of children
 - Competing with independent agencies
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Fostering changes lives



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Parent and Baby Foster Carers

Brighton and Hove Fostering Service is urgently looking for Parent and Baby foster carers.



Some new parents have very limited support and advice available to them to help them care for their new baby. Often these parents are young or have a learning disability and do not have the benefit of a stable and supportive home to help them in acquiring the necessary skills to look after their baby.

Parent and baby foster carers provide a foster home for the parent and their baby. The foster carer is on hand for supervision, advice and support for the new parent. The foster carer works with the parent with the aim of helping help them acquire the skills to be able to look after their baby independently in the community.

The foster carer plays an important role in the team involved in assessing the progress of the parent in caring for their baby and contributes to the future care planning.

Parent and baby foster carers need to be confident in caring for babies and be able to work sensitively with a new parent. You will need to have a spare room and one person to be at home.

It is a rewarding and challenging role but parent and baby foster carers can play a real

Fostering and Adoption in Brighton and Hove

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Fostering a Teenager

[Older children in foster care](#) | [Preparing for independence](#) | [Support available to foster carers for teenagers](#)

Brighton and Hove Fostering Service urgently need to find new foster carers for children aged 10 years and over. These children are at a crucial stage in their lives and just as younger children they still need care and support to help them negotiate through a challenging period in their lives. Teenagers often get a bad press however foster carers of older children say not to be put off by these negative views, their experience of fostering older children is that it is as rewarding if not more so in looking after older children.

Support needed by older children in foster care

The support needs of older children will vary depending upon their family circumstances. Some children may have been in care since they were young and many of these children will not have come into care through any fault of their own.

Most of these children will have had difficulties in their relationships at home and may have been the



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Lesbian and Gay Adopters and Foster Carers

The Fostering and Adoption Service welcomes applications from prospective lesbian and gay foster carers and adopters.



As part of our ongoing commitment to recruit a wide variety of carers from different backgrounds and experiences to best meet the needs of our children a support group for lesbian and gay carers was set up. This is now a self running group and provides the opportunity for the adults to meet together regularly as well as activities for the whole family:

- It is run by lesbian and gay foster carers and adopters
- The group holds regular meetings where members can share experiences and discuss common issues in a safe and supportive environment.

To obtain further details of the group please contact our Adoption Support Services Adviser, Gillian Luckock, gillian.luckock@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Are you an **Empty Nester?**

Have your children grown up
and flown the nest? Are you
looking for a new challenge?
And do you have a spare room?



Graham and Olive Weller – and Jacko the
dog – have been fostering for three years