

Foster Care Fortnight – MSP support pack



About Foster Care Fortnight™

[Foster Care Fortnight™](#) is the UK's biggest foster care awareness raising campaign. Delivered by the leading fostering charity, The Fostering Network, it runs from the 12 – 25 May 2025.

This year's theme is The Power of Relationships - because at the heart of every fostering journey are the connections that make all the difference.

Currently, there are 9,529 children looked after away from home in Scotland and 39 per cent live with foster families.¹ Too often these children live outside their home local authority area because a foster family cannot be found to look after them nearby.²

Strong, trusting relationships are the golden thread that runs through every fostering story. Whether it's the bond between a foster carer and a child, the support of social workers, the friendships built within fostering communities, or the connections with birth families, these relationships shape lives, create stability, and open up new possibilities for the future.

Over the fortnight, we'll be celebrating the many ways relationships transform the lives of children and young people in care - and we want you to join us!

This pack includes everything you need to get involved in the fortnight and we hope as an MSP we can count on you to help raise awareness of the vital role foster carers play in your community and raise awareness of fostering in the Scottish Parliament.

Show your support on social media

We have drafted a social media post below for you to use to show your support and dedication to foster carers, children and young people in your local area and help us raise awareness of the urgent need for new foster carers.

Don't forget to use the hashtag **#FCF25** so we can share your posts, and tag us in [@fosteringnet](https://www.facebook.com/fosteringnet)

I'm proud to support @fosteringnet's Foster Care Fortnight, highlighting the powerful relationships within the fostering community.

We urgently need more foster carers to support children and young people to thrive.

Find out more: <https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/about-fostering/becoming-a-foster-carer/>

#FCF25

You can also download placards for social media to show your support:
<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/get-involved/foster-care-fortnight/resources-for-services/>

Foster carer recruitment targets

Foster care provides children with a safe, secure and nurturing family environment. Every year, The Fostering Network calculate recruitment targets for the numbers of new foster carers needed.

We urgently need more foster families across Scotland to ensure that every child gets the care they need, and is well supported, within their community. In particular, foster families are needed who can support sibling groups, to ensure children can be cared for together and don't lose their connections to their family.

Numbers of foster families needed across the UK (estimate by The Fostering Network, May 2025):

Scotland	350
Wales	300
Northern Ireland	400
England	5,000
UK	6,000

Fostering statistics

3,683 children were living with foster families in Scotland on 31 July 2024.

This is 39 per cent of the 9,529 children in care looked after away from home in Scotland.

There are approximately 2,998 approved foster care households in Scotland, an 8.1% decrease from the previous year.

Every year hundreds of new foster families are needed in Scotland.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-looked-after-children-2023-24/>

² Among foster carers in Scotland who completed our 2024 State of the Nations' Foster Care survey, 29% of the children they looked after had lived in a different local authority area immediately before they came into care.