



Foster Care Fortnight™

Foster Care Fortnight is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to celebrate the fostering community and raise awareness of the transformational power of foster care.

Foster Care Fortnight is the ideal time to reach out to the media to tell them about your fostering service. As part of our commitment to our fostering service members, The Fostering Network does not pitch our own Foster Care Fortnight news story directly to local media. This frees up the space for our members to get across their own local messages. We will instead focus on national and large regional media. Please note that our press release may be picked up by The Press Association who may distribute it to local media outlets.

This pack contains a template press release (including a quote from our chief executive), fostering statistics, including the latest fostering recruitment targets and facts about fostering you may wish to send to your local media. Further resources, including social media graphics, are available at - [Foster Care Fortnight | The Fostering Network](#)

The theme for Foster Care Fortnight 2025 is The Power of Relationships

Foster carers provide stable, loving homes for children and young people across the UK which can have a life-changing impact.

Relationships are the golden thread running through every fostering story. Building strong relationships is the bedrock of the fostering community, not just with young people but

between foster carers, social workers, fostering services and the wider fostering community as well.

Foster Care Fortnight 2025 is about celebrating the strength of the vital bonds between those who work together to offer love, warmth and stability to children and young people.

Template press release

HEADLINE: Urgent need for foster carers in [fostering service name]

[Fostering service name] is encouraging people in [area name] to consider becoming foster carers this Foster Care Fortnight.

Throughout the next two weeks, [Fostering Service Name] will be joining others across the UK to thank foster carers for all they do and raise awareness of the life-changing impact fostering can have.

This year's theme - The Power of Relationships - highlights the vital connections at the heart of fostering. The bonds formed with foster carers help children and young people grow and thrive. Foster carers play a crucial role in providing safe, stable, and nurturing homes for children and young people - many of whom have faced difficult or traumatic experiences.

They support children in their education, physical and emotional wellbeing, and help them rebuild trust and confidence.

But we urgently need more foster carers. Across [region name], there is currently a shortage of [figure], leaving too many children without the local homes they need.

Without locally based foster carers, children can end up in foster homes outside of their local authority/trust area, far away from everything they know – family, friends, schools and clubs.

Sarah Thomas, Chief Executive of The Fostering Network, said:

“Strong, supportive relationships are at the heart of fostering. They connect foster carers, children, families, and practitioners, creating a community that surrounds children with the care they need to thrive. But with more children entering care, we urgently need more people to step forward so every child can have the right home for their needs.

“There's no such thing as a 'typical' foster carer. The fostering community is made up of people from all walks of life- regardless of age, gender, relationship status, or sexual orientation. So, if you do one thing this Foster Care Fortnight, take a moment to find out more about fostering.”

If you're keen to learn more about fostering or ready to take the next step, contact [\[fostering service\]](#) or call Fosterline during Foster Care Fortnight.

[Supporting foster carers and people who want to foster](#)

Recruitment statistics

Foster care provides children with a safe, secure and nurturing family environment, and allows them to maintain their relationships with their own families if they wish and if it is in their best interest.

With a significant proportion of foster carers retiring or leaving every year, thousands more foster families are needed. There is a particular need for foster carers to look after teenagers and sibling groups and fostering services work all year round to find and recruit the foster carers they need locally to look after these children.

Numbers of foster families needed across the UK - approximated by The Fostering Network, May 2025.

(The Fostering Network cannot break these figures down beyond these national and regional numbers.)

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

Region	
North East	350
North West	700
Yorkshire and Humber	530
East Midlands	360
West Midlands	630
East of England	440
London	760
South East	820
South West	420
Total	5,000

Fostering statistics

On average in the UK, a child comes into care in need of a foster family every 15 minutes.

The Fostering Network has estimated that across the UK around a third of foster care placements will be outside of a child's LA/Trust boundary.

Around 68,000 children live with over 52,000 foster families across the UK. This is two thirds (66%) of the 104,358 children in care away from home on any one day in the UK.

Around 39,000 more children come into care over the course of 12 months, with similar numbers leaving the care system to return home, move in with another family member, live with new adoptive families, become subject to a special guardianship or residence order or move on to adult life.

Statistics taken from 2024 are the latest available figures.

England

- 56,390 children were living with foster families on 31 March 2024*
- This is 67 per cent of the 83,630 children in care looked after away from home.
- There are around 42,615 foster families in England.

Northern Ireland

- 3,358 children were living with foster families on 31 March 2024.
- This is 84 per cent of the 3,999 children in care looked after away from home.
- There are approximately 2,893 foster families in Northern Ireland, and there is always a need for more foster families.

Scotland

- 3,683 children were living with foster families on 31 July 2024.
- This is over two thirds (68%) of the 5,430 children in care looked after away from home and family.
- There are approximately 2,998 approved fostering families in Scotland on 31 December 2023.

Wales

- Around 4,875 children were living with foster families on 31 March 2024.
- This is 68 per cent of the 7,200 children in care looked after away from home.
- There are approximately 3,600 foster families in Wales.