

Foster Care Fortnight - MLA 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, in the UK there are over 4,000 children in care in the UK and over two thirds live with foster families. Too often these children live outside their home local authority area because a foster family cannot be found to look after them nearby.

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 recognising 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 MLA we can count on you to help raise awareness of the vital role foster carers play in our community and raise awareness of the essential importance of foster care in the Assembly.

Ways to get involved

Show your support on social media

We have drafted a social media post below which you can use to show your support and dedication to foster carers, children and young people in your community and help 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 [@fosteringnet](https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk)

Suggested tweet

I'm proud to support @fosteringnet's Foster Care Fortnight, highlighting the power of 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 the 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 Northern Ireland to ensure that every child gets the care they need, and are 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):

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

UK Fostering statistics

In the UK, one child comes into care every 15 minutes and could need a foster family.

Around 68,000 children live with 52,000 foster families across the UK. This is two thirds 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.

Northern Ireland Fostering Statistics

3,358 children were living with foster families on 31 March 2024 in Northern Ireland.

This is 84 per cent of the 3,999 children in care.

There are approximately 2,893 foster families in Northern Ireland.

Every year hundreds of new foster families are needed in Northern Ireland.

Our data indicates that we need 400 new foster homes in the next year.

Contact

If you would like more information on Fostering in Northern Ireland, please contact:

Nikki

Contact details