

## Foster Care Fortnight - MP 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 over 104,000 children in care in the UK and over two thirds live with foster families. Too often these children – an estimated one in five in England – have to move more than 20 miles from home 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 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 MP 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 parliament.

### Ways to get involved

#### [Sign up to EDM 1138 on Foster Care Fortnight](#)

Please sign up to EDM 1138 which states: That this House celebrates Foster Care Fortnight from May 12 to May 25 in its aim to raise awareness about fostering and highlight the transformative role of foster carers; recognises the importance of foster care for providing children who are unable to live with their families with a safe, stable and loving home; urges the

Government to commit to a dedicated national foster care strategy to recruit more foster carers and improve commissioning processes to get children in the right home for them the first time; further urges Ministers to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of foster carers, including those approved for by both local authorities and independent fostering agencies, and to ensure they have continued access to the support, training and resources needed to provide the highest standard of care for vulnerable children; and encourages all hon. Members to promote Foster Care Fortnight and engage with their local authority and providers to raise awareness of the vital work they do.

## 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 constituency 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.fostering.net)

***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 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 the UK 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):

UK	6,000
England	5,000
Wales	300
Scotland	350

Northern Ireland	400
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Recruitment targets broken down by region of England:

Region	2025 target
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	5000

Statistics on children in care in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are based on datasets from the [Department for Education](#) (England), the [Department of Health](#) (Northern Ireland), the [Scottish Government](#), and [StatsWales](#). Statistics on fostering households are from [Ofsted](#) (England), the [Department of Health](#) (Northern Ireland), the [Care Inspectorate](#) (Scotland), [FosterWales](#) and the [Welsh Government](#).

## 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.

### 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.

Every year thousands of new foster families are needed in England.

### Wales

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 3,592 foster families in Wales.

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

## **Scotland**

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

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

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.

## **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.

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

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