

Foster Care Fortnight - MS 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 live outside their home local authority area because a foster family cannot be found to look after them nearby.¹

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 MS 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 Senedd.

Ways to get involved

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](#) [@TFN_Cymru](#)

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/>

Come to our event on Tuesday 20 May at the Pierhead, 12-1:30

Sponsored by Jane Dodds MS, the event will feature an opening address from the Minister for Children and Social Care Dawn Bowden MS, the launch of our State of the Nations' Foster Care: Spotlight on Wales report, an animation created in partnership with young people from NYAS Cymru, and a panel discussion with stakeholders from across the sector.

There will be opportunities to talk to decision makers, foster carers, fostering service staff and others in the sector during the arrival and refreshments time.

We would love to see you there to discuss the power of relationships, and what we can all do together to continue strengthening foster care in Wales.

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 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):

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

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.

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.

¹ Among foster carers in Wales who completed our 2024 State of the Nations' Foster Care survey, 21% of the children they looked after had lived in a different local authority area immediately before they came into care.

Commented [SE1]: From [Removing profit from the care of children looked after: transition to a not-for-profit model](#)