

Fostering Achievement

Fostering Achievement is a unique initiative that aims to improve the educational outcomes of children in foster care through working with foster carers and kinship foster carers as primary educators.

77% of all children in care in Northern Ireland are part of a fostering family. Fostering Achievement reaches the majority of these young people and those who care for them. The scheme provides resources and support to enable foster carers and kinship foster carers to develop and encourage their fostered child's potential.

In place for 10 years, Fostering Achievement was an outcome of the policy document Care Matters 2006. The scheme was initially funded by the Department of Health and social services under the children and young people's funding package and since 2010 has been commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board. The Department of Education provides additionality by funding a number of elements of the programme, including the hugely successful Letterbox Club.

Fostering Achievement has produced significant improvements in educational outcomes for children in foster care and proves that with the right support all children can achieve their full potential. The scheme has also proved to be a truly effective partnership, delivering resources and support to 13,905 young people over the last 10 years.

Aspire Achieve Succeed

10 years of fostering achievement

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity. We are passionate about the difference foster care makes to children and young people. Transforming children's lives is at the heart of everything we do.

In Northern Ireland we have 100% membership, working with all foster carers, kinship foster carers and fostering providers; both statutory and independent.

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**The
Fostering
Network**

HSC Health and Social
Care Board

Department of
Education



**fostering
achievement**
supporting foster carers as first educators

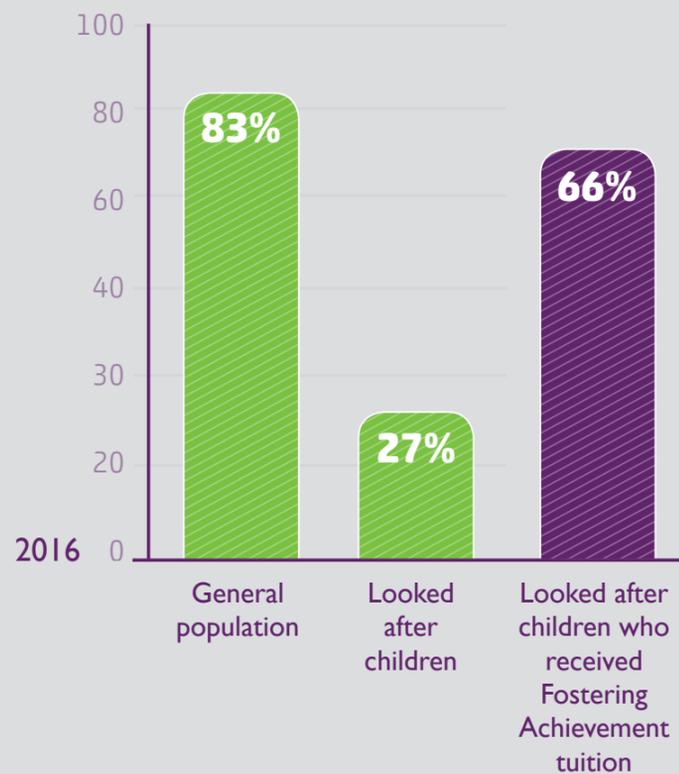
Fostering Achievement has supported

13,905 young people

9,249 foster carers

GCSE Results

Percentage of young people receiving five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C



Educational Resources



3,964

young people received tuition

1,317

young people received support within creative arts

360

young people received horse riding lessons

1,315

young people received driving lessons

10,506

Letterbox Club parcels were delivered

3,336

young people received computers

2,795

young people engaged in sport

97%

foster carers said tuition helped the child they care for achieve better grades in school*

97%

foster carers said activities helped increase their fostered young person's confidence*

100%

social workers said one to one tuition helped to support young people's learning and development*

Foster Carer Engagement



1,773

foster carers attended workshops

2,056

foster carers received home visits

1,061

cases of advocacy support

100%

foster carers felt more informed after workshops*

Events



805

young people attended GCSE support classes

788

children attended primary summer schemes

584

young people attended teen adventure schemes

5,122

attended Fostering Achievement Awards and family fun days

159

young people attended the pathways to university scheme

100%

foster carers said the pathways to university scheme influenced how their fostered young person thought about their future*

98%

foster carers said their fostered young person enjoyed the summer programme*

95%

foster carers said that attending the summer programme helped their fostered young person to make new friends*

*based on a survey of 308 foster carers and 85 social workers in 2016