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Welcome to fostering with North Somerset

If you live in North Somerset and are considering fostering, you're in the right place.

Here you can find out more about [how to foster](#), our comprehensive [support package](#) and the ways in which fostering can transform a child's life.

Most foster carers don't look back once they've started fostering. Opening your home to a child or young person who needs your help is extremely rewarding, and you could turn their life around simply by providing the love, security and encouragement they've never had.

In addition, fostering offers opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills and take an active part in your local community.

Speaking to foster carers about their experiences is one way to discover whether fostering is right for you. So come to one of our regular [information events](#), where you can speak to team members and local foster carers.

To foster, all you need is a spare room in your home and plenty of time, energy and love. So whether you've been thinking about fostering for years or this is your first time, please [get in touch!](#)

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What our children say...

Find out what our children are looking for

Fostering stories

Discover how carers are changing lives

Could you foster?

10 qualities that make a great carer

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Why foster with us?

There are many benefits to fostering with North Somerset Council rather than with private fostering agencies.

- Fostering with your local authority means you're supporting local children and local services
- You'll benefit from training and support at local venues
- You'll meet regularly with local foster carers who live nearby, forming a strong support network
- You'll have more regular placements

Excerpt from web content written for North Somerset Council fostering

Audience: Residents of North Somerset

- Communications with other professionals working in the council (such as the child's support workers) are easier. You're part of their team.
- Our fees for specialist schemes are now competitive with private fostering agencies

Will I receive higher fees from a private fostering agency?

On the face of it, private fostering agency rates may seem more attractive. But many carers prefer fostering with North Somerset because of the benefits listed above.

We're responsible for all children and young people coming into care in North Somerset, and we always aim to place children with our own carers first (before looking to foster carers from private fostering agencies). This means that North Somerset foster carers often benefit from better 'matches' and more regular placements.

Given that the majority of foster carers don't receive fees or allowances without a child in placement, regular placements can make a big difference to your lifestyle!

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10 qualities you need to foster

1. A down-to-earth attitude

You take things in your stride. If something's a problem, you'll find a solution. And it's not the end of the world...

2. Patience

Good things come to those that wait. Gaining a young person's trust and respect takes time

3. Good humour

Kids are fun and so are the things they do (even if you sometimes only realise this with hindsight!)

4. Confidence

You're now a role model for young people, and they'll respond to your confident approach to life

5. Being a good listener

Being able to listen and respond appropriately to a teenager will make a big difference to your relationship with them

6. Nurturing

Nurturing confidence, a healthy lifestyle and new skills is second nature to you

7. Resilience

You can take a few knocks (and a few minutes out) and then get on with the job in hand!

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8. Good communication

You know the importance of sharing information, keeping in contact and working well with others. Your foster child's happiness depends on it

9. Commitment

Fostering isn't a hobby. It requires a commitment, not only to the children but also to your own learning and development

10. An open mind

You never know what might happen next. But that's OK, it might even be fun...!