

**Sometimes new
parents need extra
support to learn how
to care for their baby.**

**Could you provide
that support in your
own home?**

Being a new parent is an exciting time. But it can be overwhelming, especially if you are a young parent or have other things happening in your life. Some new parents need extra help.

Our Parent and Child fostering scheme offers a home to a baby or young child together with their parent(s). The aim of this specialist scheme is to provide a safe, family-based placement for a new parent who needs support in learning to care for their child.

This kind of fostering placement is often an alternative to a mother and baby unit and usually results from a court referral, but not always. The parent and baby would usually be with you for 12-24 weeks but this time may be extended if needed.

What you need to be able to become a Parent and Child carer

- One carer to be at home full-time or be able to do this once approved
- A spare bedroom and space in your home for a parent and their child (including sharing your kitchen and other living spaces)
- Experience of being a parent or other relevant experience, for example as a health visitor, childminder, midwife or nurse
- The ability to teach practical parenting skills like sterilising bottles, preparing a feed, changing nappies, bathing babies etc.

You also need to be able to empathise and guide a parent during a difficult and potentially life-changing time in their life. You will work alongside the fostering team to ensure the wellbeing of the child in your care.

You will receive

- £746 per week tax-free until the placement ends
- A specialist training programme
- Regular supervision from your Fostering Social Worker
- A dedicated support group for Parent and Child foster carers

This is a unique fostering opportunity for you if you have the relevant skills and experience. You will be providing nurturing, safe and life-changing support to a parent and child in your home.

What is the role of a Parent and Child Foster Carer?

You will provide the crucial support and consistency that a new parent needs with reassurance, guidance and support during the transition to parenting. You will be helping the parent to develop their own parenting skills and confidence while ensuring the child is in a safe, secure and nurturing environment.

Your role will not necessarily provide parental care (except if required). It is about helping and encouraging the parent to develop their own skills. This may include helping with how to care for the baby safely and helping the baby to grow and develop. You also have an important role observing and recording how the parent looks after the child, how they work with other professionals and identifying any additional support which may be needed in the future.

You will be required to make daily written logs that significantly contribute to the assessments of both the child's needs and the parents' abilities to meet these needs. You may also be asked to provide evidence of parenting capacity for care planning and court processes which depends on the placement request.



How do I become a Parent and Child Carer?

Once you let us know that you may be interested in becoming a Parent and Child Foster Carer our team can start working with you to see if it's the right role for you. You can phone us on ☎ **01454 866423**, email ✉ fostering@southglos.gov.uk or use our online 🌐 [Fostering Enquiry Form](#) and a member of the team will give you a call back for a chat. We can tell you more about the role of a Parent and Child Foster Carer and the assessment process.



If we both feel that fostering could be right for you, we will arrange a convenient time to visit you and your family and talk through any questions you may have. There is some paperwork to complete, such as consenting to checks and references. There is also a pre-approval training course

for you to attend to prepare you for the role. Please note, due to the current pandemic we are completing all visits and pre-approval training virtually via Microsoft Teams.

On average it takes around four to six months to complete the process from your Registration of Interest through to approval at Fostering Panel. The process may be quicker depending on your skills and circumstances.

Karlie's Story

This year is going to be a memorable year for Karlie, it's her 16th birthday in October and her baby twins are due around Christmas time.





Karlie is a talented 15-year-old girl who lives with her Nan. Karlie is her grandmother's carer as Nan has a degenerative condition of the spine. Karlie was on track to get good GCSE grades and had hoped to do A levels and go on to complete a Musical Theatre course. However, in December she discovered that she was pregnant.

Karlie was determined to go through with her pregnancy because she wanted Nan to see her great grandchildren. She is planning to resume her plans for a career when her babies are older. Karlie now needs a family to move to. She will need someone to support her to develop her parenting skills after she has her babies and to support her with her relationship with her Nan and other family members.

Karlie accepts that she will not be able to care for her grandmother and two newborn babies and this is going to be a big challenge. She is currently attending all her antenatal appointments and studying hard but recently she has been noted to be a bit low in mood as the big changes ahead loom over her.

The babies' father is thought to be older and may reappear when Karlie turns 16. Karlie needs support to develop her self-esteem and be able to resist the pressure put on her by others to do things which are not in her best interest. Karlie needs to be understood in the context of being a teenager and becoming more independent through learning more skills and may be pushing boundaries at the same time as being a young mother. Karlie does not have the support of a birth family and has cared for younger siblings as a young child before they were adopted.

Karlie has the potential to succeed in life but there will be some challenges ahead which she may or may not be able to overcome. The carers for Karlie will need to be patient, calm, and have a good sense of humour and the capacity to hold her emotionally when she is overwhelmed. They will also need a good understanding of caring for infants and a knowledge of child development and attachment. They will need to be able to observe and make excellent recordings that may be used in the court arena at some point in the future.

What's next?

Thank you for your interest in fostering for South Gloucestershire Council. We need more foster carers to help care for South Gloucestershire children. We are here to help you with any more information you need to consider joining our team.

If you would like to have an informal chat about the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme or feel ready to start your fostering journey with us:



Call us on
01454 866423



Email us at
fostering@southglos.gov.uk



Join us at one of our monthly
Fostering Information Sessions



Message us through our Facebook page on
Bthere2care