

Specialist Fostering

Helping
to turn
a young
person's
life around



Could you or someone you know become a specialist foster carer for Stockport Council?

Interested?

Stockport Council's fostering service is looking to recruit specialist foster carers, people who are passionate about the care of young people and can give a young person an opportunity to turn their life around.



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What is the specialist fostering scheme?

The specialist fostering scheme provides supportive placements to children and young people with complex behaviours and additional needs.

The children and young people referred to the Specialist Fostering Scheme will have a variety of complex needs. These children and young people are considered as 'hard to place' children and young people who display challenging and complex behaviours and would otherwise be placed in a residential setting. Many of the children and young people who require a specialist foster placement may have a history of previous placement breakdowns.

The type of children and young people referred to the Specialist Fostering Scheme are typically teenagers – there is no lower age limit. The majority of the children and young people who require a Specialist Foster Placement will have had traumatic and difficult life experiences and have complex needs which may include anti-social behaviour, self-harming behaviours, alcohol or drug misuse, may be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and may display anger management issues.

What is the criteria of the scheme?

Specialist Foster Carers care for children and young person and deal with a wide range of difficult and challenging behaviours.

It is desirable that the Specialist Foster Carers have some experience of caring for children and young people of the relevant age needing care, however this is not essential. It is essential that the Specialist Foster Carer will have insight to the child and young person's difficulties and the resilience and commitment to work with the child and young person to help stabilise their behaviour.

Specialist foster carers can have other caring commitments or children of their own at home. If a Specialist Foster Carer has children of their own they must be aged at least 5 years old.

Due to the complex needs of the children and young people referred to the scheme at least one of the Specialist Foster Carers (if a couple) will be required to be available on a full time basis.

We need people who ideally have background in childcare, youth work, social care, teaching or experience as a foster carer. You must be over 21, have a spare bedroom and be a car owner.

What will I be paid?

This rewarding role is a home based, self-employed opportunity which involves working alongside Stockport Council's fostering team. You will be paid an annual professional fee of between £28-£30k plus generous allowances.

What support and training will I receive?

Specialist Foster Carers will agree to a signed agreement between them and the fostering service agreeing to work in partnership with a range of professionals involved and to attend a range of meetings in respect of the child and young person placed. The Specialist Foster Carer will also agree to on-going training and development.

A comprehensive training package is provided tailored to individual needs of the carers and young people in placement. There will be an intensive planned package of support and wrap around support services for the child from a wide range of agencies co-ordinated by the Fostering Service.

Am I entitled to any holidays?

Each Specialist Foster Carer will be entitled to four weeks per year annual leave when the children or young person in their care will be placed with respite carers.

Contact the fostering team on **0161 474 3400** or visit the website www.stockport.gov.uk/fostering or email familyplacement@stockport.gov.uk



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