

# Interested in Becoming a PERMANENT FOSTER CARER?

## What is Permanent Foster Care?

Permanent (sometimes known as Long Term) foster care is the service provided by Aberdeenshire Council for children who cannot return to live with their birth parents or other family members.

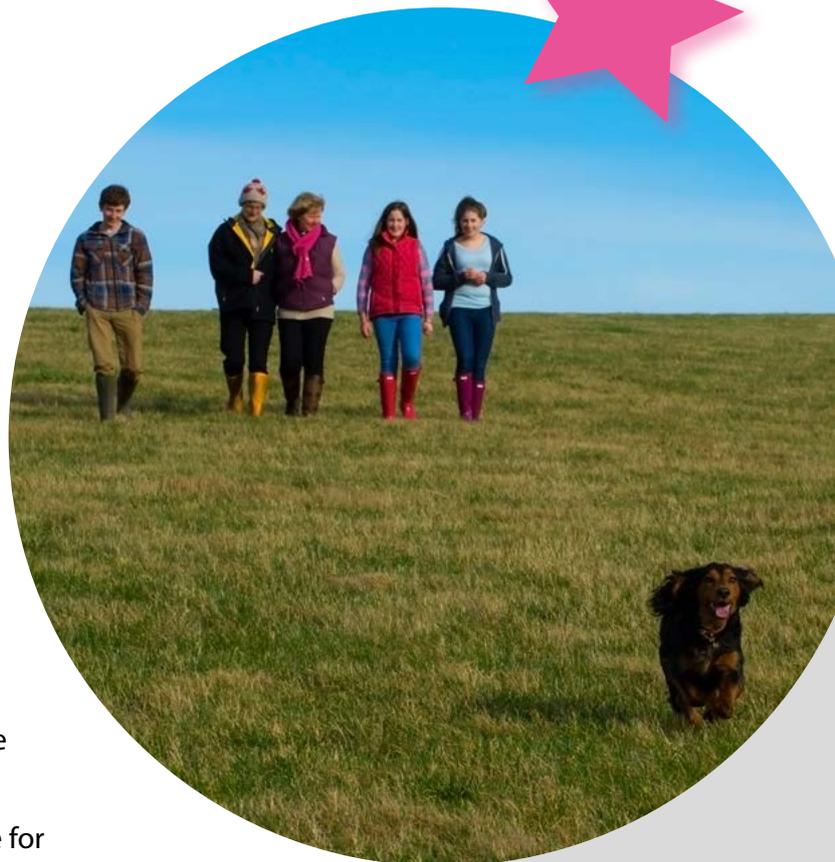
Whilst some children may be adopted, this is not possible for all children, particularly older children who may have regular contact with their birth families. Some children choose not to be adopted. For these children, permanent/long stay foster care offers them a secure and nurturing family home environment until they reach adulthood and are able to live independently.

## Who are Permanent foster carers?

They are ordinary people from all backgrounds, some are single and others are in partnerships. What they have in common is the space and desire to offer children the experience of family living throughout their childhood and the security that brings.

We are currently seeking a range of families to care for children, predominantly in the age range 8–18 years. These families must be prepared to:

- Evidence experience in caring for children.
- Understand and accept the need for children to maintain links with their birth families, their communities and their cultural and religious identity.



- Work in partnership with Social Work, Health and Education, to safeguard and implement the plans for the child.
- Be tolerant, patient, flexible and nurturing whilst providing routines, boundaries and stability.
- Be emotionally and physically robust.
- Understand the impact on children that loss and grief, caused by the experience of separation brings.
- Accept that children's futures may be uncertain due to their early experience of trauma and neglect.
- Evidence your family and community support system.
- Be committed to your own learning and be able to work as part of a Team.

## Foster Carer Support

Aberdeenshire Council are committed to providing the following for all our foster carers and their families:

- The support and supervision from a designated Family Placement Social worker.
- A 24 Hour foster carer helpline, operated by experienced staff.
- Regular Foster Carer Support Groups, including events and groups for the birth children of foster carers.
- Provision of ongoing relevant Training and Continuous Professional Development.
- A Fostering Allowance, to cover the costs of caring for a child/young person.
- A Skills Level payment for the carer, which reflects their experience and knowledge and the levels of support offered to the children in their care.

## Further Information

When you return your Registration of Interest Form to us, we will arrange for a Family Placement Worker to meet you at home.

### Family Placement Service

93 High Street

Inverurie

Aberdeenshire

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[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/children/fostering](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/children/fostering)

