

Warwickshire County Council

Support Pledge for Foster Carers



Deciding to become a foster carer is a life changing. Opening your home to children and young people is an amazing commitment for anyone to do. It will mean things will be different for you and your family and it will have a significant impact on the lives of many children too.

To help create a positive experience for everyone involved Warwickshire County Council has committed to ensuring that foster carers receive consistent, high-quality support to help them care for children. We listen to foster carers and strong investment in this area has enabled us to make a Support Pledge for Foster Carers to demonstrate the help available and benefits of the role.

Warwickshire County Council pledge to our foster carers that we will:

- Complete all foster carer assessment within five months of application
- Fast track assessments and access to the skill level for foster carers transferring from other authorities
- Provide all newly approved foster carers with a Family Support Worker to support with their induction along with ongoing 1-2-1 support, access to an Advice and Mediation Officer and a 24/7 foster carer support line
- Complete an annual Foster Home Review
- Provide opportunity for foster carers to voice their views by speaking to the Fostering Review Officer and support to attend the Fostering Panel
- Support mainstream carers to move swiftly and easily between different fostering schemes
- Provide access to a range of peer support groups for foster carers and their families
- Provide respite support through the peer to peer support group Fostering Family, allowing carers to receive respite and children to spend time with other carers they see as part of the fostering family
- Provide free access to health and wellbeing services which include access to free counselling, advice and information
- Provide foster carers with a favourable allowance scheme and the option of 52 week paid foster care schemes
- Provide online and direct training at no costs, including accredited NVQ qualifications through our Qualification and Credit Framework
- Provide Warwickshire County Council employees who are approved foster carers with additional annual leave entitlement.

For more information visit: **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering**