

Foster for Warwickshire

**Hey, we've
got you**

**A collection
of thanks and
appreciation for
Warwickshire
Foster Carers**



Warwickshire
County Council



Warwickshire Fostering and Kinship Team aim to provide quality and safe care within a family setting for children and young people who are unable to live within their own families. We are committed to being a service based on partnership and openness. We seek to be committed to improvement and development, informed by feedback from children and young people, Children in Care Council, parents, foster carers, and other professionals concerned with the welfare of children and young people in foster care.

Because of this, we have been working on a range of projects that share the experiences of those in the fostering community, to share their stories and ensure everyone feels valued and listened to within their role.

This is the third part of our series of projects around 'Voices in foster care'. We have gathered the views of Warwickshire employees to hear their thoughts and feelings to share with our current foster carers and anyone considering it in the future.

Hey, foster carer

Hey, we've got you

'Hey, we've got you' is a collection of thanks and appreciation to Warwickshire foster carers, for the incredible role they play in looking after our children and giving them a safe space to call home. We want foster carers to know that we're in their corner, we're here for you, we've got you.



What comes to mind when you hear the term “foster carer”?

Hard working.

A challenging but positive journey for a child and a foster carer.

People who go above and beyond to help our really vulnerable children, providing them with a safe and loving home.

Emotional care, listening, comforting, and encouraging.

Not enough foster carers and what amazing work they do.

Rewarding, fulfilling, dynamic.

Providing a stable and nurturing home environment.

People who are compassionate and loving.

Persons who look out for/support/nurture/care for our most vulnerable children.

Support offered when most needed.

A commitment to putting your whole household into making a safe place for a child to want to be.

Supportive and compassionate.

Someone who provides a safe, stable, and nurturing home for children and young people who are unable to live with their birth families.

Time, commitment, happy secure environment .

Kind, caring, resilient, wanting to support others even when it's difficult.

Someone to offer a loving and caring home, while decisions can be made about their future.

A person with a big heart.

A person who looks after a child in need.

Nurturing family.

Commitment, compassion, considered. The absolute best of people who make such a difference.

Amazing people who care deeply about children.

What impact do foster carers have on children in care?

They provide a safe haven where a child can recover and rebuild trust in relationships.

They have an absolutely massive and overwhelmingly positive impact. Parenting is hard but there is a parenting PLUS element to fostering. It is a difficult and tiring vocation but profoundly helpful.

They provide children with a supportive home environment, keep them safe and enable them to process things that have happened in their lives.

Security, love, stability, opportunities, support and care.

They offer a safe space for the children but also are supportive and understanding, regarding the lived experiences for the children coming into their care.

Foster carers can be life changing - they might be the first person that a child has felt safe with.

A secure home environment helps children begin to heal from trauma, neglect, and abuse.

Emotional stability, safety, held, advocated, a voice, to be heard. Development, progress, a future. change, make a difference

You all have the presence to be the most impactful people that these children will encounter as they live with you. You are the people where they learn to trust again, to know that you will protect them and advocate for them. You are the people that share your lives and families with them and who they hopefully will see as part of you.

They are the structure, security and sense of belonging that these children so desperately need, and often have never experienced.

A child once told me that their foster carer, 'saved [their] life, literally'. I think they have the power to change, and save, lives.

Foster carers offer children an element of stability within an uncertain climate. Someone to sit alongside them and ride some of the journey with them. They are often key people who are not forgotten.

They are crucial to ensure children who are most likely to be unsettled feel they belong somewhere and to feel welcome and cared for.

Provide a stable, nurturing, loving environment to meet children's needs and help them recover from any trauma experienced.

I hope it shows them how relaxed and happy a 'typical' family home can be. One would hope that this will impact them into duplicating this when they start their own family.

They change lives. They bring calm to chaos. They provide family to those are missing their own. They provide love those who need it most.

What would you like to say to foster carers to let them know how valued they are?

They reinstate my faith in humanity. They are skilled and hardworking people who make a huge difference.

At a time when children need safety, nurture and care you step in and provide this whether that is short or long term. Your ability to open your heart and home to our children, we are so grateful for everything you do, you are our unsung heroes.

Without you, there would be so many more children without a safe secure place to be.

I don't know how Foster Carers do it, but if you can you have the most impact of us all in turning children's lives around.

Thank you, for opening your hearts and homes to children who need safety, love, and stability. What you do is extraordinary. You offer more than shelter; you offer hope, healing, and the chance for a child to feel seen, heard, and valued.

Every day you make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children, and you are very special to give your time, love and care to ensure that children are cared for.

You may not always see the impact you're making, but in the quiet moments, in the small victories, in the trust that slowly builds—you are changing lives.

I am amazed at how fantastic our foster carers are and they play a key part within a child's journey. I am in complete awe of the role they play within children's lives and hope that they feel truly valued and supported. Foster carers are fantastic!

You are all absolutely amazing and what you do for our young people cannot be matched.

Thank you, you are awesome, our children need love and support and understanding and there is nowhere better than a good foster carer

An address is a house, a foster carer provides a home. Thank you for your passion, time and energy.

Thank you for being so accommodating and supportive with a young person who needed urgent medical support upon arrival in the UK.

Your care and support has made a lasting impact on this child's life.

Even on those really tricky days when you feel like you're not enough - you are so much more than enough. To some people, you are everything.

I know first hand how hard fostering is/was. However, I do feel social workers and other professionals understand the impact it can have on the foster carers.

Stories of fostering excellence and personal thanks

All those foster carers who are still in touch with the children they cared for now, whether that be babies that moved on to adopters or teenagers who are now adults. We know fostering is not a job to you, it's part of your core essence and values. And we really value you, where would we be without you.

All of our Emergency carers who go above and beyond and are often called upon in times of crisis and step up to the task with an open house and heart for caring for children and young people.

I would like to thank some of our Kinship carers who I have had the pleasure of working with who have taken on the role of caring for family or friends that they may not have been expecting to and have had to adapt and change their life plans which I think is incredibly selfless and amazing.

All of my carers are amazing, so a massive thank you for all that you do. From making sure that the bedroom is designed and decorated to how they want, to advocating for them even during criminal proceedings, to seeking and sourcing support for them when needed, to making sure that they make the commitment to the children and show up for them all the time. Foster carers are absolutely amazing. I also love when the YP moves out, but then go back to visit, sometimes with partners and children of their own. I have had a YP who came back to visit and asked her foster carer to be the godmother of her child. Foster Carers ROCK!!!!

I would like to thank all of my foster carers and kinship carers for the fantastic job that they do. I would like to give specific thanks and recognition to Joy and Kenny, who have continued to offer fantastic care to their foster children despite ill health. I would also like to acknowledge Joanne and Chris who are new to fostering and have demonstrated wonderful child centred care and provided a fabulous start for the young children they have cared for so far. I would also like to acknowledge Maddie, who is a respite and family link carer, Maddie has shown great insight into the care needs of the children she has cared for, she has been flexible and open minded and has received great feedback from the social workers she has engaged with. Finally I would like to acknowledge my newly approved, Sara & Andrew, who have started their journey with an open mind and positive attitude for fostering, which is fabulous.

I've always wanted to highlight Debbie and Stuart H, they are amazing foster carers and made such a huge difference for multiple children in the short time I worked with them. They were always patient and loving with L, showing her a sense of stability she had never known. Their actions continually told her they were committed and that she belonged with them, they always took her on their holidays and made her every bit a part of their own family. They're an incredible asset and made a huge difference to L.

I have worked with Maria G several times and find her to be so knowledgeable about the age of children she cares for. She is considerate, with regards to the needs of parents and understands the benefits from having a positive relationship herself with them. She is calm and loving and collaboratively works with all professionals.

Angela and Martin D are fantastic carers.

All of them go above and beyond to help children feel heard, supported and give them a sense of belonging and a family life experience they deserve.

I remember a foster carer I met with recently, who was so pragmatic and kind - she had supported many young people and operated from a place of meeting them where they are when they come through the door - no pressure, no expectation, just warmth and kindness - at the young person's pace.

Thank you, you are awesome, our children need love and support and understanding and there is nowhere better than a good foster carer.

Sue G is amazing,
Lorraine Y is great.

The Fostering and Kinship Team, and indeed Warwickshire County Council are indebted to the work of our foster carers. The time, love and patience that is poured into children in care is nothing short of magnificent. We know it can be hard, and the days can be long, but the years are short and our young people in care learn and grow so much, however long they may be with us.

To Warwickshire Foster Carers, we say thank you. For all that you are, and all that you do.

