

Ref. **44**



# thinking *of* fostering?

**you  
*can*  
do it!**

*Information in brief  
for people who are  
thinking of becoming  
foster parents*



**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

[www.devon.gov.uk/socserve/fostering](http://www.devon.gov.uk/socserve/fostering)

# thinking of



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## Who can be a foster carer?

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**A**lmost anyone with a stable home situation can foster children.

You can be young or old, single married or living together, with or without your own children. You can live in your own home or rented accommodation.

However, if you have committed offences of a violent or sexual nature, you cannot foster children.

## Why are foster carers needed?

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**T**here are always children of all ages, in situations where they cannot live at home, and need someone to look after them.

Most children only need looking after for a short time, often in emergencies, before being able to return home to their families.

A few children who are not able to return home need foster carers who can look after them long term.

## Where can I find out more about fostering?

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**P**lease phone one of the numbers below and you will be sent more information in the post. We will ask you some initial details about you, your family and home.

**Barnstaple 01271 388060**

**Exeter 01392 384942**

**Totnes 01803 869300**

**make a real difference**

# fostering?

## What happens next

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If you want to know more, a social worker will contact you, or you may be invited to an 'Information Evening'.

You have to provide details about the adults in your home so that Police and Health checks can be made. You will also be asked for the names of two people who know you and your family to provide a reference for you. A social worker will then meet with you and your family in your home to explain more about fostering and learn more about you.

You will be asked to attend a training course with others interested in becoming foster carers, which will help you think about what it is like to look after someone else's child, and what sort of fostering would best suit you and your family.

## When can I look after a child?

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The process of training, assessment and approval takes between three and six months. You will then have your own social worker to support you.

## What we offer you

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- ❖ a fostering social worker to support you and your family
- ❖ local support groups
- ❖ an annual training programme, and an opportunity to study for an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification)
- ❖ reasonable financial allowances and a carers career scheme with payment for skills.



**Interested? *then contact us today!***

**Fostering information from  
Devon County Council  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

**thinking  
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**Further copies from:** Social Services General Office, Room AG06,  
County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QR. Tel. 01392 382946.

**Other formats:** For copies in other formats and languages, please contact the  
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