

Foster for Bromley



**Can YOU help a
child smile again?**



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in Fostering for Bromley.

This brochure has been put together to provide you with information about Fostering and why we believe that we are the best agency to foster for.



We are **ALWAYS looking for new foster carers!** Whether you are new to Fostering or would like to transfer to Bromley from your current agency we will be happy to talk to you about joining our professional team. Bromley has a diverse group of children and young people who need foster care and so we welcome carers from all backgrounds, no matter your gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, religious beliefs or marital status.

What matters is that our foster carers can offer a child or young person support, care and love.

Bromley is on a **journey to excellence** and has already made huge progress.

We have been rated "Good" by Ofsted, we offer a therapeutic service to our carers and a competitive fostering allowance. We run numerous support groups, appreciation events and training sessions and we endeavour to continue our journey to be the best we can be.

Start something amazing today and take the first step towards Fostering for Bromley!



If you have any additional questions or would like to apply to Foster,
Please call us on 0208 461 7701 or visit www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering

BROMLEY'S PROMISE

TO OUR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU LIVE IN A HOME WHERE YOU FEEL LOVED, CARED FOR, VALUED, SETTLED, SAFE AND SECURE.

LOVE

WE WILL TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT AND MAKE SURE THAT WE LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS. WE PROMISE TO BE RESPONSIBLE PARENTS AND KEEP YOU IN MIND WHEN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT YOU.

HOME

SUPPORT

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

PASSION

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

WE WILL BE ASPIRATIONAL FOR YOU AND HELP YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND TO FULFILL YOUR DREAMS.

HAPPY

WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CARE JOURNEY, YOUR ENTITLEMENTS AND PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE.

WE WILL HELP YOU TO BE HEALTHY AND HAPPY.

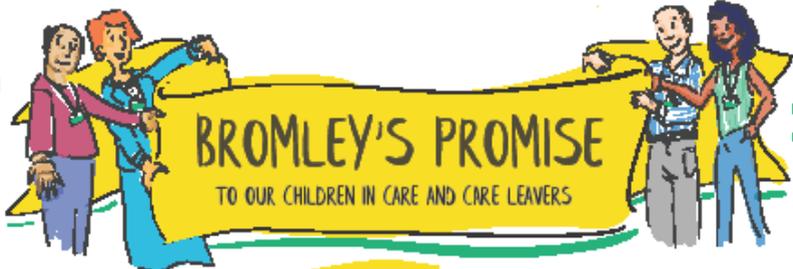
BIRTHDAYS

WE WILL HELP YOU TO PREPARE FOR ADULTHOOD.

CONTACT

HEALTH

FAMILY



What is Fostering?



Fostering is a way of providing a nurturing and safe environment for somebody else's child in your own home when they are unable to live with their birth family.

Fostering for Bromley ensures that they can also stay with a Foster family in Bromley, near their school, friends and relatives.

Fostering is for children and young people aged **0-18 years old** who need to be looked after for a variety of reasons.

These could include:

- A neglectful or abusive home environment
- The parent being unwell and having no family or friends to care for their children
- A parent's dependence on drugs or alcohol could mean they cannot put their children's needs first
- An absent parent
- A crisis at home where a child comes into care while an assessment takes place.



The child or young person will live in your home for a period of time that could range from a **few days to several months** or years. Some children will return to their birth families, some will move on to be adopted and some will stay with a long-term foster family.

When you are fostering you will be part of a professional team around the child, with social workers and other professionals, all working to make a positive difference to the child's future.

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amazing
today

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Types of Fostering in Bromley

Short term: Some children need a home for just a short period of time, from overnight to a couple of years, to cover anything from a family crisis to completing an agreed programme. The child would then either return home or remain in care permanently.

Long term: If the child is unable to return to their birth family, then one possibility is for them to remain in a long term foster family. Children looking for long term families are usually over 8 years old. This provides a permanent family for a child until they are independent, which could be when they are aged 18 or up to 25 if they stay in full - time education.

Respite: Some children need to be looked after for a short period on a regular basis to help provide stability and support for their main foster placement. This could be for one or two weekends per month for the same child. This type of Fostering can work well for carers who wish to keep their current working commitments and provide respite care at the weekends.

Parent and child: These placements provide the help and support for new parents. This is usually a Mother who may be struggling with her own difficulties.

Short breaks for a child with disabilities: Short breaks provide care for a child with learning difficulties, physical disabilities or complex health needs who usually live at home with their birth families. The short breaks can be one or two weekends per month for the same child, to give their family a chance to have a break.

Other schemes: Please see the following pages for our more specialist fostering schemes:



Emergency placements, New Horizons, Staying Put and Supported Lodgings

Bromley requires Foster carers for them all!

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Specialist Fostering



Emergency Foster Placements

Emergency Foster Care is a **short term** placement for children in a crisis and you will need to be able to take a child **with little planning or notice**. An emergency could be an unplanned placement outside normal working hours i.e. where a child is abandoned, has suffered or is at risk of significant harm, or when there is an immediate need to end an existing placement. This scheme operates on an 8 week cycle where the carer will be on call for 6 weeks, followed by a 2 week break and each placement will normally last up to **7 nights**.

A fostering allowance will be paid for the 6 weeks on call, regardless of whether a child is in placement and then an additional payment will be made when a child is in placement.



Can YOU give her the family she needs?

New Horizons



Are you ready for a new challenge? We are looking for experienced carers to provide therapeutic and specialist care for children who are ready to return to foster care after a period of time in a residential unit.

This type of care can be intense and challenging but the reward comes from being the person who can offer a sense of **security** and **stability** during what can sometimes be a difficult transition and quite a huge period of change. We are on hand to support you with additional training and advice and expert knowledge from our in-house therapeutic team.

New Horizons carers will be caring for one foster child at a time and will receive an **enhanced rate of pay** of approximately £750 per week.

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Other schemes in Bromley

Staying Put

Bromley's Staying Put scheme allows children in care to stay with their Foster Carer until they are 21 years old, or 25 years old if they have a disability or they are in Full-Time education. This ensures that our young people have the opportunity to have the support of their foster family until they are ready to live independently.



As Staying Put carers you will still receive the same level of support and supervision from your Fostering social worker and receive a professional fee of £376 per week.

Supported Lodgings

A Supported Lodgings provider offers a young person (aged 16-21) accommodation, mentorship and support to develop their independent living skills, and placements usually last 6 months to 2 years.

Supported Lodgings has its own assessment process, which is shorter than when applying to become a Foster Carer and there is more flexibility to be a Supported Lodgings provider around your work commitments.

Supported Lodgings Providers will receive support, advice and supervision plus an allowance of £250 per week.



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Fostering Allowances



Mainstream and respite allowance

You will receive a professional fee (for you) and a maintenance fee (for the child) for the duration of the placement:

Fee	Per week per child in placement
Professional Fee (for you)	Age 0-12: £206.66 Age 13+: £258.27
Maintenance Fee (for the child) Savings, Pocket Money, Clothing, Household, Transport, Leisure, Food	Age 0-4: £152.04 Age 5-10: £171.08 Age 11-15: £193.06 Age 16+: £226.10
Extras: Christmas and Birthdays: 1 week additional maintenance fee Holidays: 2 weeks additional maintenance fee	



Short break care for children with disabilities

Fee	Weekend break (24-48 hours)
Reward and Retainer (for you)	£104.57
Maintenance Fee (as above)	Age 0-4: £156.65 Age 5-10: £159.84 Age 11-15: £175.75 Age 16+: £199.49

Other schemes

Emergency Fostering	£258.27 for 6 weeks on duty, plus a maintenance fee (as above) when child is placed.
New Horizons	£750 per week
Supported Lodgings	£250 per week
Staying Put	£376 per week

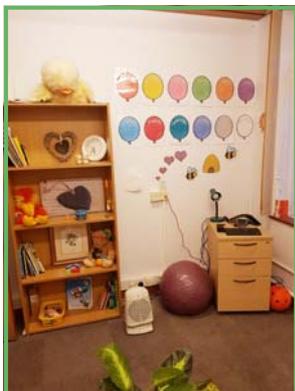
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Available Support



- We offer foster carers a comprehensive **Training** and Development programme held in Bromley
- **Emergency support** is available 24/7, 365 days a year
- You will be invited to regular fostering support **groups**
- You will be allocated your own **Supervising Social Worker** who will visit you a minimum of every 4 weeks, and will be your main contact for support.
- You will receive a competitive fostering **allowance**
- You can take part in our **Buddy** scheme where new carers are linked with more experienced carers
- You will be invited to regular **appreciation** events
- You will have access to Bromley **Virtual School** who provide support with Educational needs
- Bromley **nurses** are available to provide medical support and advice to children in care
- We value our foster carers views, and provide an opportunity for their voice to heard with recruitment forums and Fostering Advisory Panel.

T.H.R.I.V.E Therapeutic Support



Trust. Hope. Respect. Inspiration. Vision. Empathy

Bromley Fostering team is unique, offering our carers and their Fostered children access to our own **Therapeutic Support Team**.

Children who have experienced trauma, abuse and loss in their lives can often behave in ways which can be hard to manage. The therapeutic service is **here to help** and the support can then be tailored to the individual's needs.

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Good to know



Bromley carers for Bromley children

When children are removed from their home they will go into the care of their Local Authority. If the decision is made that the child needs to be cared for in a fostering placement, Bromley's Fostering team will prioritise placing the child with a Bromley Foster carer (wherever this is in the best interest of the child). If we do not have a Bromley foster carer available, we will then consider a suitable placement with an independent foster agency (IFA). Our aim is that we provide Bromley carers for Bromley children:

- **Most of Bromley's children attend Bromley schools**
- **The child's social worker works in the same office as the fostering team to create efficient and productive working relationships**
- **Foster carer training and support groups are in Bromley**
- **Contact meetings with the child's birth family are in Bromley**

South London Together

Bromley is now part of London's first Consortium for Permanency in partnership with four other local authorities:

Southwark, Greenwich, Lewisham and Lambeth.

The Consortium shares good practice, knowledge and skills to improve our service.



Fostering Advisory Partnership

Bromley has a Fostering Advisory Partnership - this is a forum which maximises the welfare of children within our care through good partnership working. It is a new approach to joint working between our Foster Carers representatives and management, and regular meetings take place to ensure that the voice of the foster carer is heard and decisions can be made.

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Recruitment process

We aim to approved you as a foster carer within 6 months of your application

1. Contact us: You can do this by phone, e-mail, applying on-line or attending an information event.

2. Application form: Can be completed at home or discussed over the phone with one of our friendly recruitment team.

4. Eligibility checks: If we all agree to continue then we will ask for your consent for the checks needed to foster. This includes police, health and references.

3. Home Visit: We will arrange to visit you at home to talk in more detail about fostering and give you a chance to ask any questions you may have.

5. Training: Our 3 days Skills to Foster training course is led by the recruitment team and Bromley Foster carers.

6. Assessment by a social worker:
A social worker will meet with you over a number of weeks to complete the Form F assessment. This will explore your motivation to foster in detail, and how your life experiences will help you look after a child or young person.

7. Fostering panel: Once your assessment is complete, your social worker will share a copy with you. Then it will be presented to Bromley's Fostering Panel. The panel is an independent group of people who decide whether to recommend that you become a foster carer. The decision will then be seen by our Agency Decision Maker to consider and approve the decision.

You are then approved to Foster and will be allocated your own Supervising Social Worker to support you on your Fostering journey

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Find out more



Fostering Information Events

We invite anyone who is interested in Fostering to attend one of our regular information sessions. The sessions begin with a presentation about Fostering for Bromley and then you will have chance to talk to our friendly recruitment team who will answer any questions you might have.

Our upcoming sessions

15th January 2020 at 6:30pm

5th August 2020 at 1pm

5th February 2020 at 1pm

16th September 2020 at 6:30pm

11th March 2020 at 6:30pm

14th October 2020 at 1pm

13th May 2020 at 6:30pm

11th November 2020 at 6:30pm

10th June 2020 at 1pm

9th December 2020 at 1pm

15th July 2020 at 6:30pm

Each session lasts 2 hours

Sessions are held at: Committee Rooms, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Please check our website for further information:

www.bromley.gov.uk/

fostering

Or phone us on: 0208 461 7701



Bromley
Fostering



