

# Fostering Annual Report 2020-21

**What have we done to increase the number of Durham County Council Foster Carers?**

- Targeted campaigns
- More personal touch
- Virtual and face to face
- Reviewed our processes
- 25 new carers





# How do we attract and retain a wider group of Fostering Families?

One of our fostering campaigns focused on meeting the team.....this went out across facebook but also went live across the Department of Educations websites as part of fostering fortnight. It was a great hit, please take a look at <https://m.facebook.com/DurhamFostering/posts>



Durham County Council Fostering  
★ Favourites · 8 Sep 2020 · 🌐

Can you help make a difference to a young person's life at a time when they need it most? #BeTheReason



WE WANT A FOSTER CARER WHO WILL TAKE US ON FUN DAYS OUT

DURHAM.GOV.UK  
Join our fostering family

Learn More



Durham County Council Fostering  
15 June at 07:58 · 🌐

If anyone missed it - hear what a great job Helen, Caitlin and Lesley did talking about fostering on Radio Tees on Saturday - the interview is at 2:13:29  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09k9qyz>



BBC.CO.UK  
Amy Oakden - Rachel Teate sits in (12/06/2021) - BBC Sounds  
Rachel Teate sits in. Music, trusted news, information and advice, and Make A Difference.

## Focused on the unique selling points

- A wide range of children requiring foster placements
- Full Circle and Clinical Psychologist
- The benefits of being a large Local Authority with all the support this provides
- A comprehensive personal development package
- Virtual Support Groups
- Competitive financial package
- Fostering Family Retention events
- M8's group for carers own children
- An active Children in Care Council providing training for prospective carers, and involvement in recruitment activities, highly valued by prospective carers
- The involvement of existing foster carers in supporting/ mentoring prospective carers
- Independent Advice and Mediation Service.
- We place value on supervision, support, and timely foster carers review.



#FosteringDurham

Can you help Jacob  
find the home he is  
looking for?

Join our fostering team

03000 269 400

[durham.gov.uk/fostering](https://durham.gov.uk/fostering)

Durham  
County Council



How we ensure we help the right child / young person to live with the right foster family for them.

- Family Finding Activity – 49 young people permanently matched with their foster family
- Supporting foster family stability when things get tough by supporting stability and preventing unplanned moves
- Learning from this and ensuring strengthened approaches to support our carers – strengthening care programme



**We foster with Durham!**

**Could you?**

Review of training offer: new induction programme, elearning new trainer

**We have improved our data and recording system**

Signs of Safety/Success: reviewed our documents, embedded the learning and new language, started to deliver training



# Continued Focus on the Voice of the Child and Carers.



- Support **recruitment**
- Leading and designing training
- Feedback and challenge us about the service and what we do or how we do it
- Sharing our Proud moments
- M8s group
- Mind of my Own app



## Our 2021 –23 Priorities

Priority 1: Recruiting new Foster carers.

Priority 2: The timeliness of assessment and support to foster carers.

Priority 3: Preventing children and young people from moving on in an unplanned way.

Priority 4: Performance and management oversight

Priority 5: Voice of the child/ participation

Priority 6: Connected carers