

Fostering Comms w/c 15 July 2019 – project team update

This update will bring our foster carers up to speed with the work we are doing to grow the Notts County Council fostering service. Please note that there are several links to webpages embedded in this update. We've done this to reduce the use of paper, but if you can't access these links please contact us at the email address at the end of this update.

On 15 July the Children's and Young People's Committee approved the new fostering levels payments and these will now be implemented from 1 August 2019. You can access the paper which was submitted to CYP Committee by clicking [here](#).

The new rates are set out below.

Current Levels	Current Levels payment per week	Proposed Levels	Proposed Levels payment per week	Increase per week	% carers on each level
Level 4 (5-18 yr-olds)	£108	Level 3 (5-18 yr-olds)	£139	£31	76%
Level 4 (0-4 yr olds)	£88	Level 3 (0-4 yr-olds)	£113	£25	2%
Level 3	£44	Level 2	£57	£13	4%
Level 2	£22	Level 1	£28	£6	4%
Level 1	£0	Level 1	£28	£28	13%

Following the committee meeting the team presented to Council Members on our plans for the development of the fostering service. Three of our foster carers attended and answered Members' questions. Members' seemed very interested in our recruitment strategy and agreed that they would support it by following us on social media and liking/sharing posts, and by making sure fostering packs are kept at Councillors' surgeries so that they can publicise our service.

Maxcards have now been ordered and are being distributed to all carers who have expressed an interest. Please let us know if you would like one.

We are pursuing other avenues with colleagues in the County and District councils to see if we can find other ways to improve the overall offer to foster carers – we'll keep you informed as soon as we have any further information.

We've interviewed for two new Fostering Family Workers and will hopefully have them in post in the next couple of months, providing valuable resource to support our carers.

The Recruitment & Assessment team is now in place and is focussing on developing a monthly schedule of fostering events, working on improving our social media presence, and putting a more efficient and timely assessment and training process in place so we can increase our available placements as soon as we can. We're also working hard to plan and arrange the Foster Carer

conference in September, and are midway through the production of a new film to publicise our service which we hope to showcase at the conference.

If you have any questions or feedback please email Steve Scott, who is the Programme Officer working on the fostering development project. His email address is steve.scott@nottscc.co.uk