

Update for foster carers – 14th May 2020

I hope you and your families are all continuing to keep well and safe.

It is Fostering Fortnight and I hope you are all proud of the work you are doing to support our looked after children. I am thankful for all our ongoing commitment to fostering for Nottinghamshire County Council.

You will be aware that the government have announced plans to start easing some of the current restrictions, which are conditional on Covid-19 infection rates reducing. Our current working practices are continuing with staff mainly working from home and conducting meetings and contact with children remotely.

Risk assessments

Our looked after children have a COVID 19 risk assessment completed by their child care social (CCSW) and this needs to be adhered to and, if it requires any changes, it needs to be discussed with the CCSW and supervising social worker.

School openings

I have been asked whether foster carers are within their rights, in order to remain safe, to keep the children in their care home when the government gives the go ahead for students to return in June? This is in the context of schools having an increasing number of children returning to school and having to manage pupils returning to school safely.

Ideally, we want children that schools are expecting to return in June, to attend their respective schools as per government guidance. However, further guidance is expected for schools and schools will want to ensure the safety for their staff and pupils, so it is not possible to be definite at this stage. However, we do recognise that all decisions about children living with foster carers returning to school will need to be made on a case by case basis in the best interests of the child and the carers and the carers will be fully involved in the decision making.

Foster carer recruitment and referral Scheme

We are increasing our recruitment publicity through digital channels during fostering fortnight and are proactively making efforts to recruit through links with local churches with the support of some of our foster carers and Home for Good.

We truly believe that our foster carers have the best eye for spotting someone who would make a great foster carer, so we are thrilled to be able to reward our carers when they do recommend someone to us.

As an approved foster carer, you can receive £250 if you recommend someone you know to foster, and that person goes on to become an approved foster carer. Simply tell your family and friends to contact the recruitment team and ensure they let us know who has referred them to us. If an applicant has been approved as a foster carer following a recommendation, we can process the payment to the carer who recommended them!

Do make use of our foster carer website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fanotts> for updates re; COVID-19 and where there is lots of good information and resources and our Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/fosternotts/>

Thank you for all you are doing and for your ongoing support to our looked after children and young people. I will keep you all updated of any changes to our working practices impacted by any further government guidance.

Ty Yousaf
Fostering Service Manager
14th May 2020