

## Lyn and Roger's retirement message

Time flies when you are having fun, and I have to say that apart from a few bumps in the road, we have so many good memories of fostering.

We have enjoyed long term, short term, home from home, staying put, support care and adoption. Needless to say we have also been asked to have a young person or two in an emergency situation!

It has never been about how many children we have cared for, although on sleepless nights I do try counting and remembering the names of the young people who have been in our home.

It has not just been about caring for the child, but often involves building good relationships with birth parents, and not being judgemental.

Every young person is an individual and their situation different from each other's. By respecting them, advocating for them and offering guidance, as carers we can only hope to support them through to returning to families or adulthood.

Because of these children and young people we have worked with many different professionals. Childrens social workers, Team Fostering, Teachers, Therapists, Guardians, even the Police. This has made life interesting.

We have also seen many changes in Fostering over the years. The introduction of Supervising Social Workers made a huge difference to us, we felt much more supported. We have been very fortunate by working with the best of them and would like to thank them for all their advice and making us feel valued.

Regular support was introduced and is invaluable for some mainstream carers. We really enjoyed offering weekend and support care to so many different and diverse young people. The friendships formed with other carers has been very important. We all need to off load, be reassured and have a laugh with likeminded people who understand each other. To all you fantastic carers, thank you, and carry on the good work.

To all the children and young people who have been placed in our care, we would like to say an even bigger thank you. For the ups and downs, the fun and the laughter, and for making our lives more meaningful.

Most of all we want to thank our two amazing home grown sons. From such an early age they had the ability to care, share and show empathy. Their constant encouragement, understanding and love have been immeasurable.

Lyn & Roger  
North Team foster carers  
Feb 2021