

Chairman's Announcements

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| Subject: | Becoming a Foster Carer |
| Web contact: | http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering |

Wiltshire Council needs to recruit foster carers of all types, including specialisms. Foster carers are needed in all areas of the county, although it is recognised that the main priority is to recruit in the main towns to the north and west of the county (Chippenham and Trowbridge) and to the south (Salisbury). Most looked after children come from these areas and so generally local foster carers are needed to support children continuing at school and college and to facilitate family contact more easily.

Foster carers are ordinary people and so they are likely to be living in any part of the county, in any community. To become an approved Wiltshire foster carer you need to:

- Be at least 21 years old (although they can apply from the age of 18)
- Have a spare bedroom big enough for a child or young person to use
- Be a full-time resident in the UK or have leave to remain
- Be able to give the time to care for a child or young person on a full or part-time basis

Foster Carers are paid an allowance based on the age of the child they look after and a Skill Fee dependent upon their skills and experience.

Recent research carried out at Bristol University with children in care shows how important it is that children have someone they can trust, who is interested in them and that:

"Living with someone that you have a good and trustful relationship with is the key to a happy and effective placement"

Saving Grace is the story of a young person who was fostered, and the positive impact fostering had on her life, and on the life of her foster family.

To find out more about fostering in Wiltshire please visit:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering>

Or phone 01225 716510 (office hours) or 0845 6070888 (out of hours)

Our next information evenings are:

29 May, 7pm - 8pm, County Hall, Trowbridge

26 June, 7pm – 8pm, County Hall, Trowbridge

24 July, 7pm – 8pm, County Hall, Trowbridge

25 September, 7pm – 8pm, County Hall, Trowbridge

30 October, 7pm – 8pm, Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre, Salisbury