



Why choose FCA



0800 023 4561
www.thefca.co.uk





Allowances and Rewards

We recognise the value of our fostering families to our community and want to ensure you are always rewarded for your loyalty with us. Along with a generous fostering allowance, we award two bonus payments of £250 each year in the summer and winter, along with an appreciation bonus of up to £1,000 depending on length of service with us. Not just that, but you'll also receive gifts for each milestone you hit, along with our annual appreciation day with events and days out local to you.

We also provide all our foster parents with access to our rewards platform where you can take advantage of fantastic discounts across hundreds of high street names, online stores and supermarkets.

We Invest More to Improve the Lives of Children

We are more than simply the allowance we give to our foster parents. We ensure we invest back into the services we offer to ensure the very best experiences and outcomes for the young people in our care. Whether that be fun local events, career fairs and workshops, or our biggest event of all: 'The Big Sing Off' choir competition which involves all of the regions throughout FCA. Not forgetting our dedicated Participation Team who actively engage with our children and young people to ensure their voices are heard and responded to.

We Are One of The Most Established Independent Fostering Agencies

Being one of the most reputable agencies mean we are a trusted partner for local authorities throughout the UK. Our services are in high demand across the country, which means once you become an approved foster family with us, it won't be long before you'll be making a difference in a child's life. At FCA we are one big family. Our regional teams and offices up and down the country mean you'll have local support, events and services tailored to you.

Professional Support

Our Out of Hours Support is there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When you join us, you'll be joining our community with access to one of the greatest fostering support packages out there. You'll have access to:

- A dedicated supervising social worker
- A referrals teams that concentrate on making quality matches
- Therapists who work with foster parents and staff so that we help our foster parents care therapeutically
- Dedicated out of hours staff that know how to support you if something goes wrong

First-Class Training and Development

Our training programme is second to none. All our foster parents complete a detailed preparation programme that will equip you with all the skills and knowledge you need to be a successful foster parent. You'll also have access to a wealth of complimentary training courses that will continually develop your skills – all of which are tailored to you and your personal development. All our courses are flexible and designed to work around your schedule, with opportunities to learn both online and face-to-face.

Excellent Ofsted Ratings

We know what it takes to reach the pinnacle of success in regards to delivering a fostering service, and as such all our registrations are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. We have achieved this by listening to our staff, foster families and children. If you want to join an organisation that takes pride in striving for Outstanding, then please choose FCA.

Safe and Happy

At FCA we cherish the fact that children have one childhood and we are very proud of our 'Safe and Happy' mantra – a pledge which is now embedded within the culture of FCA and enables us to build a service that is centred around children and young people feeling safe and happy whilst with us.

Carer Buddy

We will allocate you a foster parent buddy so you and your family will benefit from support and guidance from someone who's already been in your shoes. Their own first-hand experience of the fostering journey means they can provide empathic, insightful advice to guide you through the process smoothly.

Why Choose FCA North East

an agency that is with you every step of the way

Educational Support

We offer all our young people access to the AQA Unit Award Scheme, which offers recognised certificates of achievement in a range of subjects and skills including photography, business, engineering and music. It's a great way of getting our young people involved and showcasing their skills to future employers.

Stronger Futures

We recognise the importance of enabling our young people to achieve their independence. We support our foster parents to mentor and teach life skills through workshops, group exercises, webinars and work experience in the local community.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

We are a registered DofE provider and open this opportunity up to all of the children involved with FCA, including your own children and grandchildren. This gives our young people the opportunity to socialise, support their community and learn new skills. The DofE award can open many doors for them in the future, including supporting college and university applications. As an agency we have delivered Bronze and Silver awards, and are now going for Gold!

"Our young person was very proud of her portfolio and used this to support herself in securing a tenancy. She is now enjoying independent living and doing extremely well... although she still comes back for Sunday dinner."

-FCA North East foster parent

"I really enjoyed doing the DofE. It was hard work and at times I wanted to give in, but I'm glad I didn't. The best bit was new friends I have made"

-Child of one of our foster parents



Supporting our Children's Journey

We acknowledge and celebrate all our children's individual achievements. For some this could be getting involved in sports, joining the cadets, or learning a new skill through a local club. For others it could be learning to ride a bike, settling into a new school or building close relationships with others. We highlight these achievements by sending out cards and certificates to mark special milestones and achievements, as well as highlighting our children's successes through our newsletter.

All of the children in our care here at FCA will have their own personalised Memory Box. This supports them through transitions in their lives and is an important step in capturing their most special memories and helping them to make sense of their life story. When our young people are ready to move on, we create a collage of photos and memories from our staff team and their foster parents, to help them remember their special times with FCA and with you, their loving foster family.

Supporting our Foster Parents

Diversity

When it comes to choosing foster parents, factors like your age, gender, sexuality, marital status, faith or ethnicity are not taken into account. We welcome people from all different backgrounds and levels of experience. What matters to us is your dedication to transforming the lives of vulnerable children and making a difference. Our foster parents come from a variety of backgrounds and are of all ages. We have single foster parents who can offer siblings a home, couples with birth children who support sanctuary-seeking young people, and retired couples supporting teenagers to independence.

We recognise the diversity of our families and offer support to all members of the fostering household and support network. This could be birth children, grandparents, friends or extended family.

Foster Parent Support Group Meetings: You'll be invited to local support groups held throughout the region each month to help you build and maintain friendships with other foster parents and access a wider support network. We're also proud to host regular wellbeing groups to help look after your mental health and wellbeing.

Training and Development

Although one of the most rewarding vocations, fostering can come with its challenges – but you're never doing it alone. From the moment you start your fostering journey with us, you'll be provided with a network of ongoing support, with a multi-disciplinary team including health specialists, education practitioners, therapists, police and local authority workers, all working together to secure a safe and happy future for the children in your care.

You'll develop a deep working relationship with your dedicated supervising social worker, who'll support you by visiting regularly, conducting monthly one-to-one supervision meetings, and helping you access training.

Our high-quality training programmes and annual conferences are accessible and relevant to all our foster parents so that you can continue developing your skills and confidence as a foster parent.

Coffee and Cake Mornings

We offer monthly coffee and cake mornings to anyone who would like to learn more about fostering and the assessment process. These informal and friendly meet-ups provide the opportunity to meet our local team and ask any questions you have about your fostering journey.

Therapeutic care

We understand that your development as a foster parent is crucially important so that you can offer the children you look after the best trauma-informed care possible. That's why at FCA North East we offer all foster parents therapeutic based training. Incorporating recognised methods including the Adapt, Attune and PACE models of care, the training provides our foster parents with all of the tools they need to build strong relationships with their foster children and help them to move through the trauma they have experienced.

We have a Therapeutic Practitioner who is on hand to offer advice and guidance to help our foster parents respond to a child's needs with empathy and sensitivity so they can provide the best levels of care. Alongside this, we have our very own Therapy Corner, a dedicated article in each of our newsletters which shares the latest research and guidance in therapeutically-informed parenting methods, keeping our foster parents up to date so that you can develop your skills and knowledge around key therapeutic principles. We also host Therapy Corner groups, which meet monthly. These groups give our foster parents the opportunity to discuss therapeutic approaches to parenting and access advice and guidance.

Ofsted Rated 'Outstanding'

When you join FCA North East you will be joining an experienced and knowledgeable fostering provider awarded with the highest independent benchmark of quality. We are an exceptional agency and we have the accreditations to prove it. We have an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding,' which is testament to our team's dedication to going above and beyond to improve outcomes for the children and young people in our care.



