

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.

What Makes FCA South East Unique?

Supporting our Foster Parents

Wrap-Around Support Network

Although fostering is one of the most rewarding vocations, it can come with challenges – but you're never doing it alone. You'll have the backing of a large regional support network, with locally grown area teams who will be available to help you learn, grow, and offer the highest standard of care and support to the children you foster. Our very experienced local team provide 24/7 support 365 days a year.

An 'Outstanding' Leadership Team

We're a high-quality agency and have the accreditations to prove it. Ofsted judged the effectiveness of our management teams 'Outstanding,' a testament to a stable leadership team with over 50 years of experience in fostering.

Our dedicated and long-standing admin team have also been working together for over 10 years, taking the time to get to know our fostering families, build positive and nurturing relationships, and provide a wrap-around network of support.

Experienced Foster Parents Providing Specialist Care

Our foster parents come from all backgrounds and are of all ages. Between them, they have over 568 years of combined experience. We have several dedicated and committed foster parents who have over 20 years of experience, and our longest serving foster parent has been with the region for over 25 years.

We have specialised foster parents caring for children and young people with disabilities, unaccompanied minors, and Parent and Child, and teenagers. Together, they offer a wealth of knowledge to both new and existing foster parents.

Diversity

The culture we've embedded is one of respect for the individual differences within our foster families. We prioritise meeting the cultural and ethnic needs of the children and young people in our care, ensuring that their views, feelings, and ideas play a central role in shaping the development of our agency.



male, non-binary, straight, gay, single, married, divorced, or have no prior experience working with children. What truly matters is your dedication and commitment to transforming the lives of vulnerable children.

Expert Matching and Placement Stability

Our dedicated referrals team work alongside 28 Local Authorities throughout the region to offer a wide range of fostering opportunities, such as Parent and Child fostering, long-term placements, and fostering unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We have an excellent track record for quality matching, ensuring your family and the child who will be in your care have a successful and happy fostering experience together.

Our services are in demand in the South East, with regular referrals from the local authorities. This means once you're approved to foster with us, you won't have to wait long until you're matched with the right child for your family.

Support Group Meetings

You'll be invited to regular local support groups to help you build and maintain friendships with other foster parents and access a wider support network. This includes a strong Parent and Child group to help you access support tailored to your family's fostering circumstances.

Participation

We have a strong focus on participation at FCA, where we actively engage our children and young people. We always strive to improve by listening to our children and young people. Our innovative and proactive Participation Team ensures our children have their voices heard, gain new experiences, learn new skills and have fun!

Recent feedback shows that 100% of our young people feel:

- Part of the family
- Well-supported while living with their foster parents
- Encouraged to do well in their learning
- Safe with their foster family

Celebrations and Activities

Your entire family is welcome to join us for local activities and celebrations over Christmas, Easter, Halloween and the summer holidays. These are fantastic opportunities for you, your family members, and the children in your care to make new friends, build relationships and enjoy memorable days out together.

We also acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our children and foster parents with awards, appreciation lunches, and events.



Supporting our Children and Young People

Personal Development

For all our children and young people, we create a Personal Development Plan alongside a Learning & Development Strategy to ensure the individual needs of young people are met.

Empowering Young Voices: The Care Experienced Consultant Role

Following a national consultation with FCA's young people and those with care experience, we've introduced the **Care Experienced Consultant** role.

This role provides young people with care experience the opportunity to be employed on an **'as & when'** basis within their local Participation Team. They assist with a range of activities, including consultations, providing feedback on procedures, supporting foster parent recruitment and training, and engaging in various activities.

Currently, we have one Care Experienced Consultant in our regional team. Since joining in January 2021, he has contributed to our **Prepare to Foster** training by sharing videos about his own time in care to offer valuable insights to our foster parents. He has also consulted with other children and young people to help us shape the service we provide for them.



