

How to become a foster carer through the iTF scheme.

For those new to fostering, foster carers for teenagers are approved in the same way as other foster carers, which includes ongoing training and a family assessment.

Currently approved carers who want to develop into being approved as an therapeutic foster carer should talk to their supervising social worker.

Want to find out more?

Contact Us

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Integrated Therapeutic Fostering



HOMEFINDING AND FOSTERING

Information for foster carers



Greater Rewards.

As a foster carer you would be registered with homefinding and Fostering, however you would be able to access world class therapeutic support via childhood first.

Reflective supervision and foster agency support is crucial to keep placements stable.

The new service enables children who need intensive therapeutic support, and yet are able to cope with a family setting, to experience a consistent family life at the same time as healing the trauma of their past, supporting their recovery and developing improved socialization and life outcomes. This service will provide an alternative option for placing authorities mid-way between a standard foster care placement and a more specialised residential therapeutic placement.

This is about feeling safe.

Having Boundaries, building trust and being accepted.

“I know the challenges are greater, but so is the support and so are the rewards.”

What is the difference about being a iTF Carer?

All our fostering families have 24/7 support from a dedicated locally based social worker, but you will also have access to a fully qualified therapist. Staff managing iTF placements will only look after up to 5 carers at a time so you can be assured of a high level of support.

“I think the kids who don't have any rules have a problem. It's scary not having boundaries. Even if they resist them at first”

You will be invited to attend a wide ranging training programme including highly specialised therapeutic training and an opportunity to gain a certificate in integrated systemic therapy, endorsed by the University of Middlesex.

iTF is a whole family commitment that needs to be considered carefully and, although the challenges might be greater, so are the rewards. You will be paid a generous allowance for fostering a child through the iTF Scheme.



Therapeutic Fostering

Therapeutic Fostering is a specialist type of fostering for children and young people suffering emotionally and psychologically which often has an impact on their overall behaviour.

Therapeutic fostering enables them to learn what it means to be part of a family, allowing them to heal from past traumas and build positive relationships.

It gives young people the opportunity to access exceptional support and therapy whilst within the safe and secure setting of a family, guiding and assisting them to reach their potential.

Could you do it?

As a foster carer you would be registered with Homefinding and fostering, Working in partnership with Childhood first, allowing you to access therapeutic support.

The partnership utilises the strengths, skills and expertise of the two organisations to offer the new integrated therapeutic fostering service.

You need to be willing to reflect upon your own behaviour in order to work therapeutically with a young person. But you won't have to do this alone. Alongside you will be a team of social workers and therapists.

You need to be robust, open minded and caring. You need to recognise a young person's practical and emotional needs and be able to respond to those on a long term basis.

Our commitment to you.

Safe. Secure. Supported.

Who is Childhood First?

Childhood first is a charity registered by the UK council for Psychotherapy (UKCP), that provides specialist therapeutic care, education and treatment to children suffering severe emotional and behavioural disturbance as the result of early life trauma. Childhood first is renowned for its therapeutic approach which has evolved in response to the needs of some of society's most troubled children. At the heart of this, is the belief that the damage caused by relationships can most effectively be healed by relationships.

The charity now runs six 'therapeutic communities' to provide emotional and practical support to young people. Childhood First is renowned for its therapeutic approach, which has continued to evolve over four decades in response to the needs of some of the most seriously troubled of children, young people and families.

Not all children are the same and we are looking for a wide range of carers able to meet the wide range of children and their diverse needs.

