

Title	Department	Post Ref.
Foster Carer – Child Specific	Families and Cultural Services	
Job Purpose Foster Carer		
Key Responsibilities/Overview We are looking to recruit a number of foster carers for children aged from 8-14 years who are currently placed in residential care. These children may have had several placement breakdowns and as a consequence they may experience emotional and attachments issues and fear rejection. The children will need a calm, relaxed and nurturing environment, together with consistent boundaries and routines. Some of the children may not be achieving their age related expectations because of their fragmented education, care history and their pre-care experiences. When carers are identified, introductions will be planned carefully over an extended period to ensure the children feel comfortable with their new environment and build a trusting relationship to enable them to feel safe and secure during their transition to a full time foster placement. The team around the children will be able to share behaviour management strategies they have found useful to support the children to manage their emotions. The carers may be required to facilitate contact with birth parents which may or may not be supervised.	Key Accountabilities 1. To be part of the agency and work with other agency staff and professionals within agency guidelines, policies and procedures. 2. To attend and actively participate in all reviews, family meetings, case conferences and court hearings as required, and to keep written records of placements and contribute to reports. 3. To take up appropriate training opportunities and recognise the benefit of continued training. 4. To deal responsibly with confidential information. 5. To ensure that children are kept safe from harm and abuse. 6. To act as an advocate for each child.	
The post holder will perform any duty or task that is appropriate for the role described		

Person Specification	
Education and Knowledge Therapeutic parenting training and support will be offered as part of the support package. 1. Preferably, relevant qualifications (e.g. NVQ in child care, degree in social work or youth work or teaching). 2. Be able to or have experience of using theoretical ideas and models in understanding and working practically alongside young people (e.g. attachment theory, knowledge of autism, child development, mental health). 3. Be excellent communicator, working closely with a range of other professionals and organisations.	Personal skills and general competencies 1. Be committed to ongoing and regular training and development at an advanced level. 2. Be excellent relationship-builders with young people. 3. Be resilient and able to ‘go the extra mile’ in maintaining placements in adverse circumstances. 4. A current driving licence and own car. 5. A spare room for the sole use of the young person.
Experience Experience of working with young people with complex emotional and behavioural needs, either in a related professional context (e.g. teaching, youth work, social care) or as an experienced foster carer.	
Role Dimension 1. A couple or single person with an active lifestyle and wide support network. 2. All foster carers are self-employed and are eligible for generous tax benefits and National Insurance credits which counts towards your State Pension. Visit https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/help-with-the-cost-of-fostering. 3. A dedicated supervising social worker with regular periods of support care and supervision. 4. Approved as an NCC foster carer having undergone relevant check, references and pre-approval training– further information visit http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/fostering/steps.	