



Parent and Child fostering

An introduction to
the specialist fostering scheme



FOSTERING
NORTH LONDON



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North London Fostering Consortium

The North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium (NLAFC) is a partnership of six north London boroughs, Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey and Islington. We work together to provide increased placement choice and improved long-term outcomes for our children and young people. This partnership also enables us to reduce gaps between placements for foster carers and increase access to support services for adopters, foster carers and special guardians.

Parent and Child Fostering Scheme

Parent and Child fostering is a specialist area within fostering that enables robust assessments to take place when babies and young children are at risk of being permanently removed from their parent's care.

Parent and Child placements make it possible for the child to remain with their parent, whilst the assessment takes place, therefore the relationship with the parent is not disrupted.

A parent is supported by the foster carer to show their abilities and potential for learning in relation to the range of skills needed for 'good enough' care. Through their day-to-day involvement with the foster carer, parents are helped to appreciate for themselves their readiness, or otherwise, to be a full time parent.

Whatever the outcome of the assessment, both children and parent can take forward learning from their placement experiences, which will help them face future challenges.

As a Parent and Child foster carer for the North London Fostering Consortium, you would potentially have a child placed from any of



the six boroughs that make up the Consortium. As placement capacity is shared across the North London Fostering Consortium, this arrangement reduces unwanted gaps between placements e.g. you may be approved by Camden but may have a placement from Hackney.

Parent and Child foster carers:

- ▶ Have a parent and child live with them in their home, generally for a structured 12 week period followed by a stepped down period.
- ▶ Build a supportive relationship with a vulnerable parent and help them learn how to look after their child safely.
- ▶ Make daily written logs that significantly contribute to the assessments of both the child's needs and the parents' abilities to meet these needs.



- ▶ Work closely with the social worker completing the written assessment for the court and other agencies, such as the health visitor.
- ▶ Have good communication skills, patience, and understanding of parental challenges as well as

detailed knowledge of good infant care.

Support and Training

- ▶ Due to the nature of these placements, time for yourself is built into the arrangement. Ten



hours a week of paid support is provided on top of time needed for training and attending meetings.

- ▶ You will be closely supported by a social worker who will:
- ▶ Determine with you as to whether a proposed placement is viable and if so, whether any additional requirements are needed to be put in place.
- ▶ Meet with you every two weeks and will support you with your development of your assessment skills.
- ▶ Arrange and chair the pre-placement planning meetings and the monthly review meetings and take a lead in troubleshooting any difficulties that may arise.
- ▶ Identify your training requirements and progressively enhance your training further by providing access to the training schedule across all six boroughs.

You will also be encouraged to take part in the Parent and Child Foster Carer's Support and Development Group. Parent and Child foster carers meet with the supporting social workers, every month, to share experiences and knowledge, take part in training and plan further training.

Who can apply?

You don't have to be an existing foster carer but if you are you may be ready for a new challenge or want to offer the accumulated experience of years of parenting skills you have developed to a struggling parent.

If you are not currently a foster carer you may be in a profession where your skills can with support transfer well with parent and child fostering, such as a nurse, teacher, nursery worker or youth worker or you may have very different experiences but have suitable qualities for this role.

You can apply as a single carer or as a couple for this scheme.

Payments

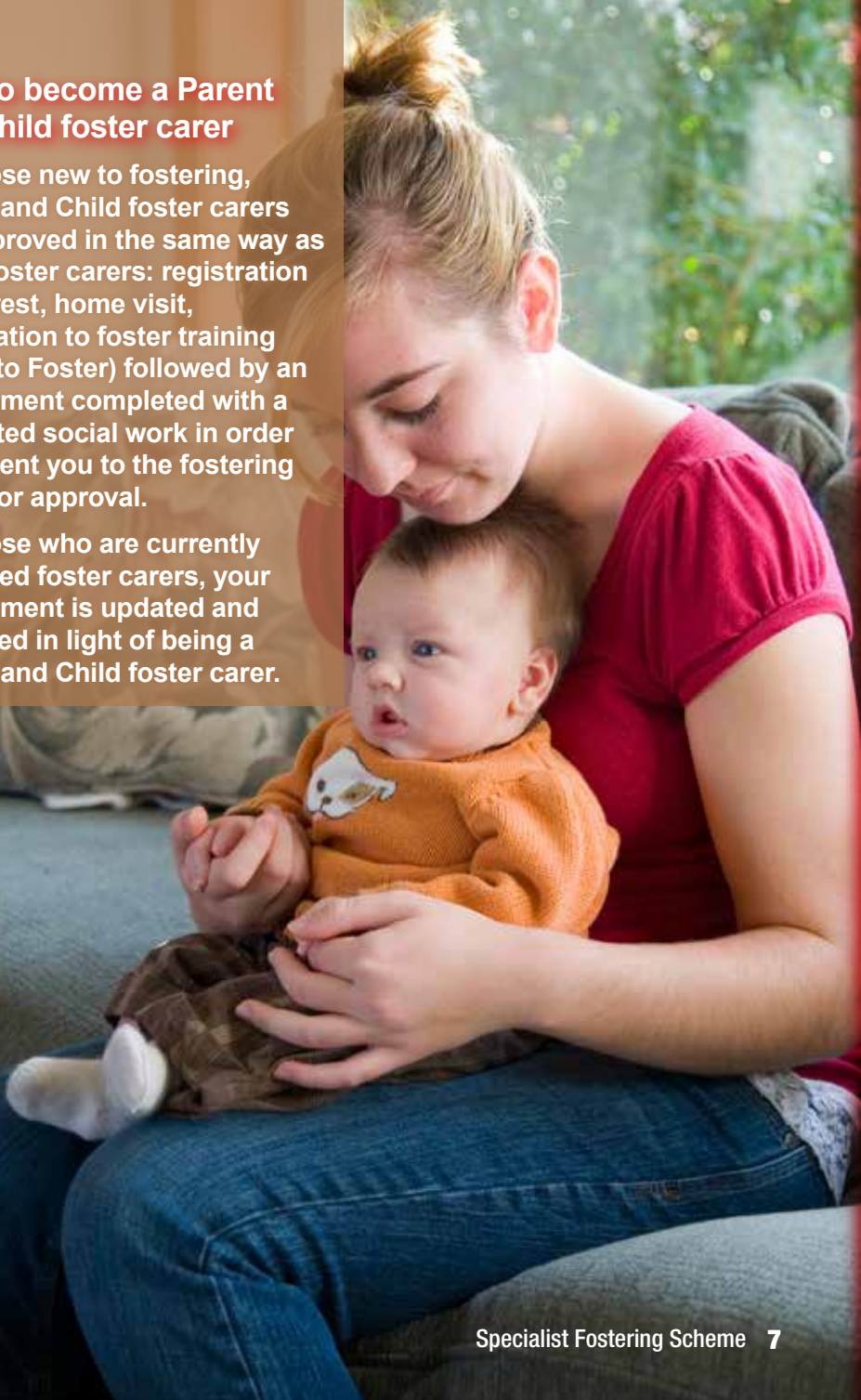
Foster carers providing Parent and Child placements under the North London Fostering Consortium scheme are paid:

- ▶ £867 per week with the parent retaining responsibility for their own costs such as their food, the child's food, travel, personal needs etc.
- ▶ £250 per week between placements, for up to 10 weeks each year.

How to become a Parent and Child foster carer

For those new to fostering, Parent and Child foster carers are approved in the same way as other foster carers: registration of interest, home visit, preparation to foster training (Skills to Foster) followed by an assessment completed with a dedicated social work in order to present you to the fostering panel for approval.

For those who are currently approved foster carers, your assessment is updated and extended in light of being a Parent and Child foster carer.



Want to find out more?

If you would like to have a discussion about the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme or any other type of fostering we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact:

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