

Dear Resident,

We are **NEWFOCAS**, an independent foster care agency located in Buckley. We have been in Buckley 20+ years and are located above Buckley Eyecare on the high street near to the SPAR. We are looking for potential foster carers, predominately from Flintshire and surrounding areas, who would like to give a child, or sibling group the opportunity to experience family life.

To apply, you will need:

- A spare bedroom
- Be a driver and have access to a car
- Have basic computer skills to send e-mails
- To be able to attend free training (throughout your foster carer career).



Carers are paid up to:

- 1 x child £495 per week (this varies, depending on the age of the child).
- 2 x children £990 per week (this varies, depending on the age of the children).



Most of our Foster Carers give up work when they become a Foster Carer. A career move of this nature would need to be planned, as the process can take up to 9 months, as we need to check that the people we recruit, are safe people to care for children.

All of our Foster Care placements are planned, matched and long term. This means that we do not offer emergency placements. It also means that the Carer is involved in the matching process to ensure that the placement offered best meets the needs of the child and also fits with the dynamic of the household.

For example;

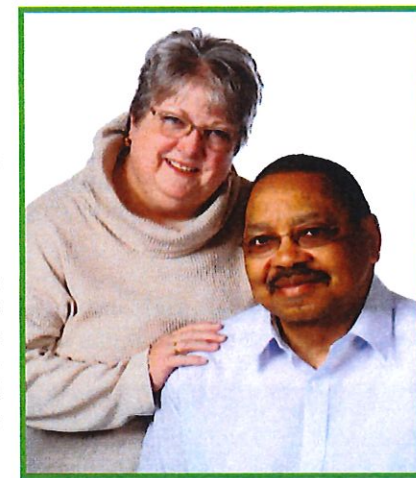
- One of our foster carers who has a young family, has asked that they have a child who will match safely alongside their children and who will want to participate in family activities and outings that are age appropriate to their children.

- Another of our long-standing carers is planning her last placement, as she wishes to retire in seven years time, so has asked for a child of age 11 to support and prepare that child for independence when the child leaves the care system at age 18.

We like to have a planned transition which is beneficial for both the child and the foster family, where there is a plan of introductions prior to a child joining the family, for both to meet and get to know each other prior to placement.

The **NEWFOCAS** Social Work team will give you full training, so that you can learn all about **NEWFOCAS** and how we work to help children in the care system. You will continue to receive ongoing training as a Foster Carer to help you to build up your toolbox of therapeutic skills to look after your foster child, developing your practical and theoretical skills to manage occasional behaviours associated with trauma and neglect. You will accrue respite hours to re-charge your batteries and have time out.

NEWFOCAS Foster Carers are well supported and have an allocated Supervising Social worker and Therapeutic Social worker who will help you with all aspects of fostering and are available during the working day by phone, or will call out to see you if needed. Outside of working hours we have an Out of Hours Service that you can ring for advice and guidance 24/7 if you need to, or call to simply offload – You are not on your own!



Our foster carers are various ages, the average age of our carers currently is 58 years, our youngest carer currently is age 30. There are many variables of the definition of family; whether you are a couple, or single person, or same sex couple and would like to explore foster caring further and you are able to offer a safe and nurturing home to a child, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

You can ring us on 01244 550300 or for more information on **NEWFOCAS**, you can visit our website www.newfocas.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

The NEWFOCAS Team