

Be the difference.

Could you foster?

Children in our community are in need of stable, loving homes to achieve their best future and fulfil their potential.



“
Our foster
mum makes
sure we do our
homework”

www.lambeth.gov.uk/foster


Lambeth

Every day in Lambeth a new child comes into our care, and we urgently need more foster carers to give them the love and support they deserve.

Fostering means looking after someone else's child because their birth family are unable to. That can vary from short-term foster care to having a child or young people with you for a long time. As a foster carer, you'll look after children as if they were your own – in a loving home environment. You'll need to be sensitive to the challenges they'll face after separation from their families and any additional trauma they may have been through, such as abuse or neglect.

There are many different types of foster care, and we're sure there's one that works for you. For example, you could provide short-term respite care to children with disabilities to allow their parents a break. Or, if you have the space, you could help us keep a family together by caring for siblings. If you work 9 to 5, you may find it easier to foster older children who are more independent.

When you foster for Lambeth, you get:

- **a rebate of your council tax** if you are actively fostering for us
- **24-7 out-of-hours support** from a dedicated social worker and our team, 365 days of the year
- two weeks' (14 days) paid respite each year
- a **£500 referral bonus** if you refer a friend who becomes an approved, active foster carer for Lambeth
- among the **most competitive fees and allowances** in London
- Fostering Network membership and the opportunity to join our active fostering support group
- **priority** (before a private fostering agency) when a child is looking for a placement
- a thorough induction programme
- your own dedicated supervising social worker (SSW)
- ongoing training and development opportunities throughout the year
- peer mentorship to newly approved carers run by our most experienced foster carers.

Why do we need foster carers like you?

Lambeth is a diverse borough. Our children come from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and ethnic groups. And so we need carers who are diverse too. Your sexuality, marital status, age, religion, disability and whether or not you own your home will not determine your ability to become a foster carer. However, there are a few criteria you must meet.

You need to:

- be over 21 years old
- have a spare bedroom
- be a full-time resident in the UK or have indefinite leave to remain
- have good spoken and written English

We consider applications from people who are working, but you will need to have some flexibility to meet all the needs of any child in your care.

We would love to hear from you!

If you have any questions about fostering, please contact us today for an informal chat and more information:

Call: **020 7926 8710**

Email: **fosteringduty@lambeth.gov.uk**

Find out more: **www.lambeth.gov.uk/foster**



If you would prefer to speak to someone in person, come along to one of our events. See when the next one is at **www.lambeth.gov.uk/fosteringevent**

The fostering process



Step
1

Make an enquiry

Call us, complete our website e-form or email us. We will come back to you within two days if you make an online or email enquiry.



Month
1

Step
2

Month
1



We will come and visit you

Within a week of making your enquiry, we will set up a home visit.

Step
3

Skills to foster training

You'll be invited to a four-day training course to learn more about what fostering involves.



Month
2

Step
4

Months
2-5



We'll do a formal assessment

We'll carry out health, criminal record checks and references to help us determine your suitability to foster.

Step
5

You will attend our fostering panel

When we have completed your assessment, we will produce a report for our fostering panel. Following this meeting, the panel will make a final recommendation.



Month
6

Step
6



You become a foster carer

Once you have been assessed as suitable for fostering, you will join our team. We will introduce you to our support staff and begin the induction.