



“ The best thing that happened to me after arriving in Northern Ireland was moving in with Stephen and Elaine’s family. I have no contact with my own family. My Foster Family loves me and fills that gap.”

— 18-year-old African teenager in foster care for over 2 years

What do I need to do?

To find out more, visit our website, where you can get in touch and place an enquiry.

Following your enquiry, a social worker will contact you within 2 days, provide you with information and will answer questions you may have.

Our aim is to establish a pool of Foster Carers from a wide range of cultural, social and linguistic backgrounds who reflect the diversity of the children and young people arriving in Northern Ireland and who are placed in our care.



Every child / young person
deserves a safe and stable home.

0800 0720 137
adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net

 @HSCAdoptionAndFosterCare
 @HSCAdopt_Foster



Imagine being alone
in a strange country.
Can you help?





HSC Northern Ireland Adoption and Foster Care are seeking to recruit Foster Carers who enjoy being with, caring for and are able to support vulnerable children and young people from a range of ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

Who are the children and young people?

The children / young people come from a number of countries across Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia. They arrive into Northern Ireland without a parent or responsible adult. Most unaccompanied children / young people in Northern Ireland are teenagers, however some are younger. Many of these children / young people who are separated from their own family and in a new country and culture, benefit immensely from the support and care that can be provided by a culturally sensitive family or carer.

“ Having NaNomi living with us for the last 2 years has not only helped him to settle with a family but we are so proud of him as he has become a role model for some of our other children.”

— *Joanne, Foster Carer for an African teenager*

Why do the young people leave their country?

The children and young people arriving in Northern Ireland have many different reasons for leaving their country of origin. Each child or young person is unique as are the circumstances and experiences that led to their arrival in Northern Ireland. Many flee danger and war; they may be trafficked, persecuted or exploited, or their parent or carer may have disappeared.

You could provide the care and support that would make a positive difference to their lives by:

- Giving them a safe and supportive home environment
- Offering emotional support
- Supporting them with education, medical appointments, and leisure activities like sports or music
- Helping them to learn English
- Being willing to learn about their culture and religion and making them part of your home life
- Helping them integrate into the local community, make friends and build support networks.



Support for you?

HSC Northern Ireland Adoption and Foster Care will be legally responsible for the children or young people and will provide a named social worker. However, you will provide the day-to-day care and support. The child / young person will also have a named social worker.

In supporting you we will:

- Assess you as a carer
- Provide you with training in a range of areas e.g. the needs of children and young people, cultural awareness, impact of trauma
- Ensure your named social worker visits regularly and you know how to contact them for guidance and support
- Introduce you to Foster Carer support groups and other carers providing care for unaccompanied children / young people
- Ensure you have access to 24 hour support should you need it
- Provide financial support based on the age of the child or young person and the level of support and care they may need.