

Foster 
for Walsall



New Horizon Fostering Scheme



Walsall Council

**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network



Walsall Council's Fostering Service are looking for people to join our team and become therapeutic Foster Carers for our newly created New Horizon fostering scheme. As a New Horizon Foster Carer you will help make a real difference to the lives of some of Walsall's Children in Care. We are looking for people with the skills and experience of working with young people to provide therapeutic, empathetic care to children (usually aged 10-18) who are likely to have faced significant trauma, abuse or neglect. Working with children intensively means that you have the opportunity to create and build with us a small team of local Foster Carers dedicated to changing children's lives.

What is the New Horizon Fostering Scheme?

The New Horizon Fostering Scheme will aim to help children who are currently living in a Children's Home, often miles away from their family and friends, to return to live in a nurturing family environment. We want to support Walsall's children to live in and around Walsall, cared for by Walsall Council Foster Carers.

As some children who come to live with you are likely to have had previous multiple home breakdowns, been traumatised by previous experiences of abuse and neglect, and have associated emotional, behavioural and attachment difficulties, caring for children on the scheme therefore means having patience, empathy and an understanding that their life experiences and changes in situation can mean that they need additional support in feeling safe and settling into your home. Ultimately you will have the ability to build a positive relationship with the child to help bring about stability for them.



How is New Horizon fostering different from mainstream fostering?

This scheme is different from mainstream fostering because:

- In most instances, each Foster Carer will be approved for only one child
- For any child to make the move to live with a New Horizon Foster Carer, they will have an updated assessment that outlines their needs and a care plan that supports this (*except when acting as an Emergency Foster Carer)
- There will be a careful matching process which will begin towards the end of the assessment process (*except when acting as an Emergency Foster Carer)
- Introductions will be at the child's pace (*except when acting as an Emergency Foster Carer)
- There will be an individual support package involving health and education to help you to meet the needs of the child or young person
- Each arrangement is initially for 12 months after which, it is reviewed to see whether the child or young person still requires the level of support the scheme provides; however, as the scheme is child-focused, the length of time they child or young person lives with you is very much dependent on their individual needs
- When the Foster Carer does not have any children living with them, they will act as an Emergency Foster Carer. As the main purpose of the scheme is to provide homes for our children moving on from a children's home, it is envisaged that the acting as an Emergency Foster Carer will be a rare occurrence and last for a short period.

To be eligible to be assessed for the New Horizon Fostering Scheme you should be able to demonstrate that you meet the following criteria:

- At least 2 years' experience of caring for or working with children and young people whose behaviour can be challenging
- One carer in the household will be home-based (recognition of this is reflected in the financial package)
- Insight and understanding about trauma, abuse, neglect, and potentially of autism and/or mental health issues
- With our support and training, the ability to manage and support a young person who is likely, due to their experiences, need a significant amount of your time to help them regulate
- Ability to work positively as part of a wider team of professionals
- Adaptability and willingness to learn and implement new approaches
- High level of empathy
- Commitment and motivation to care for a child who might have had multiple home breakdowns
- Have the time, patience and commitment to meet the individual needs of the child and make a difference to their life.



New Horizon Foster Carer Key Responsibilities

We are committed to giving all children the opportunity for family life wherever possible. As a New Horizon Foster Carer you will have the motivation and ability to provide a level of nurture and support to help them.

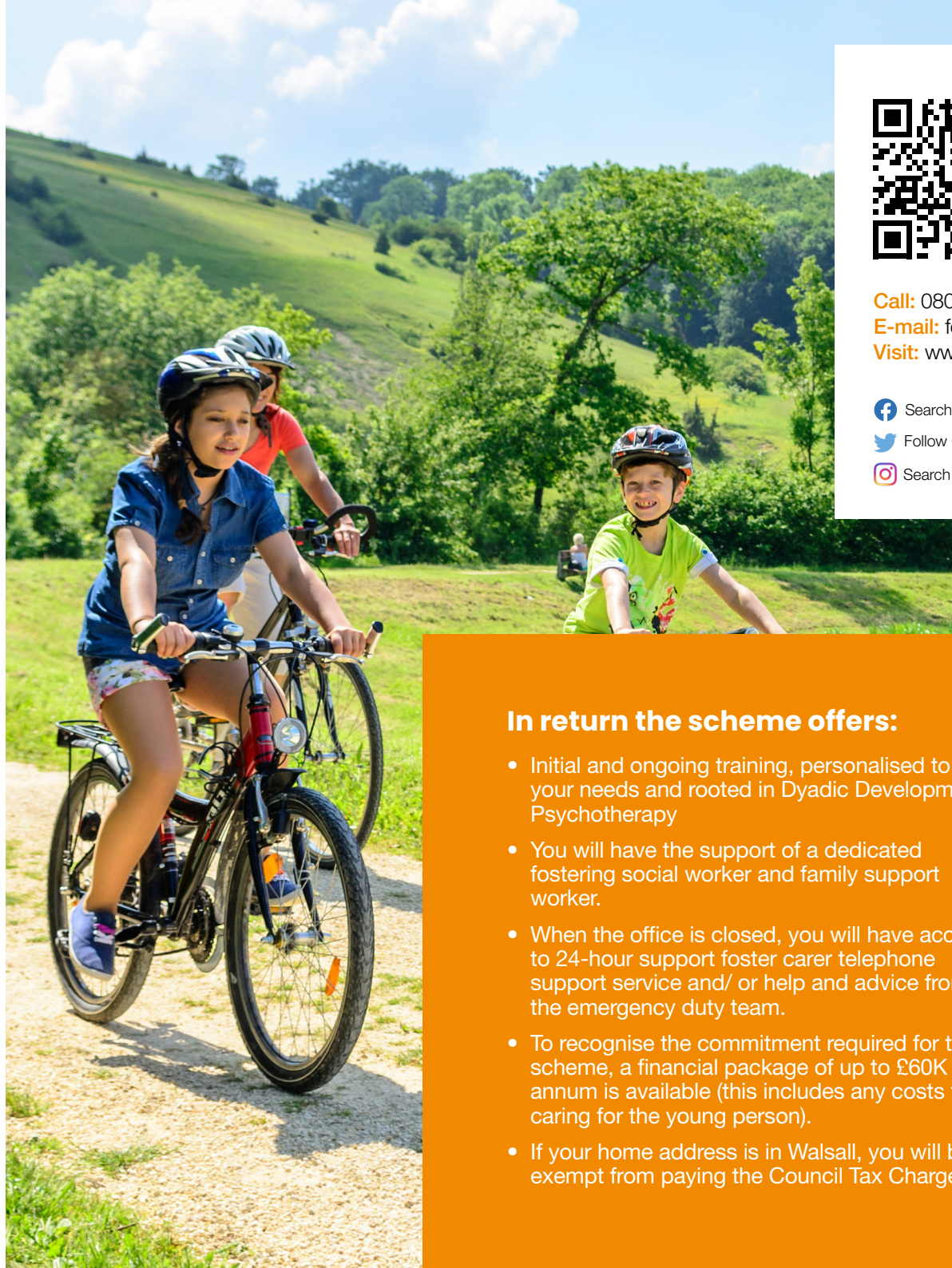
As the children you will care for may need a higher level of attention and supervision, one foster carer in the household will need to be at home as a full-time carer with no other employment.

You will need to attend meetings and to work in partnership with a range of other professionals as a significant member of a team around the young person.

In addition, you will be required to attend ongoing professional training and development courses and support groups.

An ability to work with other professionals and participating in our bespoke training and support programme for the scheme, based upon a DDP model of support and learning.

If there are no children living with you, then you will act as an Emergency Foster Carer for a time limited period.



Call: 0800 923 3706

E-mail: fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk

Visit: www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk

 Search **FosteringInWalsall**

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 Search **Walsall.fostering.service**

In return the scheme offers:

- Initial and ongoing training, personalised to your needs and rooted in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy
- You will have the support of a dedicated fostering social worker and family support worker.
- When the office is closed, you will have access to 24-hour support foster carer telephone support service and/ or help and advice from the emergency duty team.
- To recognise the commitment required for this scheme, a financial package of up to £60K per annum is available (this includes any costs for caring for the young person).
- If your home address is in Walsall, you will be exempt from paying the Council Tax Charge.