

It's hard to believe how quickly time is flying by—here we are already in 2025! I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've had since September 2024. Our charity has marked some truly special milestones—none more significant than celebrating 25 years of supporting foster carers and children. Seeing so many of you come together in October and November to mark this occasion was a testament to the heart and dedication that make our fostering community so special.

“ Together, we will continue to make a profound difference in the lives of the children and young people we serve. ”

Another highlight has been the success of our very first fundraising activity, the 496 Challenge. Thanks to your enthusiasm and generosity, we're thrilled to announce that the funds raised will go towards an exciting adventure and activity day for all our foster families this coming summer. This decision was shaped by your feedback, reinforcing our

Welcome!



commitment to listening to and supporting our incredible fostering community.

Now, as we look ahead, our 25th anniversary is not just a moment to reflect but a launchpad for growth and new opportunities. The need for foster carers has never been greater, and we are committed to expanding our reach, welcoming more incredible people into our fostering family, and ensuring every child who needs a loving home can find one. If you or someone you know has ever thought about fostering, now is the perfect time to take that first step and join us in making a real difference.

As always, we remain deeply grateful for each and every one of you—our foster carers, staff, and supporters—who make a difference in the lives of children and young people every single day. We hope this newsletter brings you updates, inspiration, and a reminder of how valued you are.

Wishing you all a wonderful and exciting year ahead!

Thank You

Sam Ram
Chief Executive Officer



FCC In The News!



Charity celebrates 25 years of caring



Just Joking!

**How did the snowman pay for his groceries?
With cold cash!**

Shared by OT at our Christmas Children's Forum

**Why did the snowman cross the road?
To get more snow!**

Shared by T at our Christmas Children's Forum



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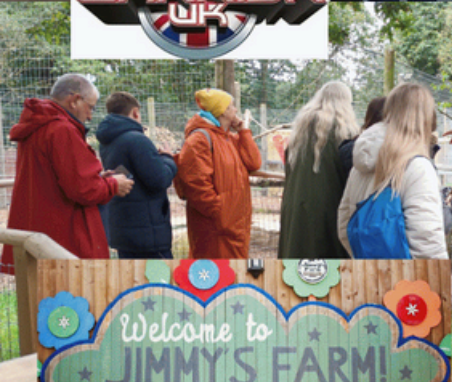
#PRIDE



Recruiting Carers!



Work Experience



Knitted Toy Donations



Awards & Surprises!



Christmas Tree Festivals



Support Group Celebrations!



In The News! A Passion For Fostering

In September Steve Hughes joined Steve Field for a series of radio interviews highlighting fostering and encouraging more people to apply to become foster carers. The dynamic duo featured on local radio news in the Midlands and Northwest as well as recording a Talking Life podcast and being interviewed on Heart & Smooth Radio – reaching over 4.9 million listeners!



SPOKESPERSON FEEDBACK

8/10 ★★★★★★

Steve Field and Steve Hughes were very nice guests whose wealth of experience came through clearly. Their passion was evident in every answer, and they handled the subject matter with care given how sensitive talking about children in care can be. They were a pleasure to have on and one the hosts would love to have them on again to see how the U.K's foster care situation evolves over time.



Thank you Steve & Liz!



Here are some of the places we've been to on our recruitment days
Thank you to all our SSWs and staff for being the face of FCC at these events. If anyone has any ideas of events that we can go to for recruitment in 2025, please let us know.

Help Us Grow!



We need more foster carers

Know Someone Who Would LOVE to FOSTER?
YOU can earn up to £1000 when you refer someone.

£100 is payable when we receive a completed Application Form AND a Form F Assessment is started. A further £900 is payable when they are approved as a foster carer with us.

Don't forget to make sure YOU are listed on the Registration of Interest form as the person who referred them!

Note: You must be a current FCC foster carer to take advantage of this offer. If you refer a couple the fee is £1000. The fee is per new fostering household, not per person referred.



Staff Spotlight!



Vicky Young
Supervising Social Worker

My fun facts – I have been a Pub Manager for a local brewery for 3 ½ years, I have previously managed a Men’s Sunday League Football Team and I have broken several of my toes!

“ I joined FCC at the end of Nov 2024 as a Supervising Social Worker in the south west region. I believe that the key to making positive changes lies in good relationships and great communication and care. When I was a (mature!) student I did a work placement with FCC as part of my Social Work degree. It is lovely to return to the agency that has now become a charity and to see some familiar, smiley faces. My previous roles have been within the Local Authority and I am really excited to be working at FCC as it is so family-centred, supportive and focused on improving the well-being and futures of young people in foster care.

My favourite part of my role is meeting with our wonderful foster carers and the young people and having a good long chat or doing an activity together. I plan to arrange activity days and support groups to get people together and connected.

I am an active person who loves trying new things, travelling, playing games and doing crafts. I believe there is always something new to learn and will try my hand at most things! I am also an animal lover and enjoy long walks with my dog and cuddles with our pet guinea pigs, Timone and Pumbah. ”



Kate Punt
Education Specialist



I am loving my role as Education Specialist at FCC having joined in August 2024. Before working for FCC I was a teacher and worked in schools around the country. I support our carers to ensure that every child has the opportunity to enjoy their education and achieve amazing things. I monitor attendance, progress and enjoyment through communicating with carers, SSWs and school staff. The best part of my job is sending certificates and praise cards to celebrate the huge number of achievements each month, from being awarded star of the week to achieving qualifications at GCSE and A-Level.

My Fun Fact. I went travelling when I was younger and did two skydives! Now I prefer to watch an air show rather than jump out of a plane!



Carer Compliments

LAC SW: Thank you Liz & Steve so much for caring and loving my N. The girl she came to you as is definitely not the same girl she is leaving as. N would not be the confidence and feisty young lady if it wasn't for your love and support over the 6.5 years she has lived with you. It has been lovely working with you.

Foster child feedback on how great it is living with Rosemary & Michael R – Thank you!

AR feedback from CSW – “Glen & Laura have been supportive of K in her school transition. They have offered her emotional warmth and K has a secure attachment with them. I commend their efforts particularly with K’s phobia.”

Teacher feedback: “Sonia has brought smiles back to the faces of these children – well done Sonia!”

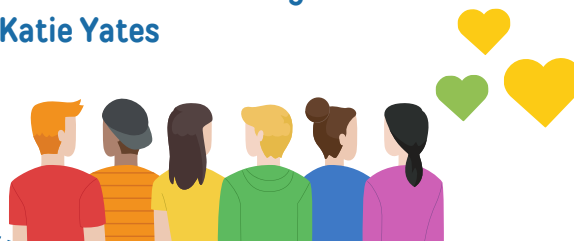
Compliment from Mum to FC Katrina at family time “I know how good you are with them and I want them to stop with you if they cant go home.”



Welcome New Carers!

- Hannah & Matthew Ashpole
- Sandra & Anthony
- Chenoweth
- Lorraine & Lance Hill
- Andrew & Emily Severn
- Samuel & Karen Hodgson
- Katie Yates

Foster carers
who joined us
July-Dec 2024



Fundraising Update!



Our 2024 charity Christmas card featuring jumper designs from children in the FCC family, was available to buy for the first time. Funds raised from card sales over the Christmas/New Year period were just over £100

Congratulations to Levi age 7, who won our Christmas design competition with his cute reindeer jumper.



Donations Received!

Thank you to everyone who supported **#FCC496Challenge24**. We received over **£500** in Gift Aid as well as the core donations. These funds are being used for a summer 2025 FCC families activity day. Details coming soon!



£2,745

raised of £3,000 target by 47 supporters



Christmas Tree Festivals

You may have seen the FCC Christmas trees in Worcester, Chester and Sheffield Cathedrals in December, showcasing all the Christmas jumper designs. We received £25 in donations from the people in Sheffield who visited the festival.



Help us get a £1000 Movement For Good Award

Nominate FCC today online at <https://movementforgood.com/>



Save the Children

THANK YOU! to everyone who participated in our Christmas office raffle. We raised £109 for our cause – Save the Children Middle Eastern Appeal



Can you help support our carer recruitment?



Steve Field
Director of Childcare

Over the past six months, there has been so much to be proud of. In my role as ADM, I am constantly amazed by the fantastic outcomes our children achieve. These successes are only possible because of the dedication and love that every one of our foster carers gives to the children in our care, alongside the unwavering support from our staff. For that, I am truly grateful and incredibly proud of everyone who is part of the FCC family.

As always, the need for foster carers remains vital in providing children with a loving, family home. **A recent study highlighted that, to meet the needs of the care system, approximately 6,500 new fostering families are required.** We need carers to support our recruitment efforts—if you are able to spare some time to attend our face-to-face events or help with social media posts, please let Catherine know. It would be fantastic to have foster carers involved in growing the agency!

As a charity our aim is to transform the lives of even more children and young people. Our fundraising and promotion activities will help us to provide more care, well-being and support activities for both our foster carers and the children they look after.





139 learners



395 courses completed



39 in progress

NEW!

Thank you to everyone who has been active on our **BESPOKE eLEARNING platform** launched in 2024.

There are lots of training courses available including one which helps understand how to use the training website itself.

Now you can allocate the courses you want to do yourself, stop/start a course as needed and track your progress throughout the course.



Share Your Feedback



training@fcccharity.org.uk

Diary Dates!

Therapeutic Parenting with Vicki Wood
4th & 11th March

Live via Zoom
10am-12 noon

You must attend both days

Internet Safety with Skips Educational
13th March

Live via Zoom
Mandatory Training

eLEARNING NEW & UPDATED COURSES

- Knife crime awareness
- Missing from care
- Caring for a child of Polish heritage
- Managing a child's anger
- Understanding distressed behaviour
- CSE and CSA
- Knife crime booklet

Mandatory Training Focus 2025 – Look out for email updates with dates/times to book

- E-safety/Internet safety (Spring Term) 1.5 hours (virtual) up to 25 people per session
- First Aid (Summer Term) 4.5 hours (face to face) up to 12 people per session
- Managing Challenging behaviour (Autumn Term) 3 or 5 hours (face to face) up to 12 people per session

Updated Courses in eLEARNING
<https://fcc.fosteringtraining.com/catalog>

Child sexual exploitation & Child sexual abuse

The updated versions of these courses in our eLEARNING centre address the ever-evolving methods perpetrators use for exploitation, with a particular focus on online avenues.

Preparing to welcome a foster child

Whether you are new to fostering or experienced, this updated eLEARNING course will provide further guidance on best practices to ease a child's transition into your home, making this challenging time as comfortable and safe as possible for them.



FIRST AID For Foster Carers

Specialist training 4.5 hours

The First Aid for Foster Carers Course is a short course designed to give learners the knowledge and skills to deal with an emergency in the home.



THE DRAKTHARS

I couldn't breathe. The tentacles wrapped around my throat. It was the end. This was it. The end of everything. There was nothing that we could do. Babies were falling to the ground, surrounding me. They had destroyed the world, they had my world. It was their fault. They did this. The Drakthars. They were the ones that were destroying my world. I escaped their grasp and survived, my sword in its throat. I glanced around the battlefield. Blood was dripping from all the Drakthars, and then it hit me. Darkness filled my eyes. It was too late.



Honey is a published author!



CONGRATS!



Go Harper!
Star of the week

Great to have you visit FCC for your work experience Blake. A future career in social services? Keep in touch!



PANTO TIME!
Oh no it isn't...

Congratulations to Chelsea, Ryan, Blake and Hermione for your starring roles in this year's panto - Cinderella. Another sell out set of performances, what a fantastic result!



Lots of lovely new knitted toys for our children's welcome boxes!



Melissa

What an amazing experience in Nairobi, Kenya! Thank you for sharing all the wonderful photos and videos of your trip. Great to see all the new friends!



AWESOME!

GO Reine-Tru! Congratulations on becoming Maths Ambassador for your class! And amazing Geography skills!



100%



GO Seven-Tru! Congratulations on becoming School Councillor for your class! And earning your Communications & sleepover badges at Cubs!

Go Tyler!
we're so proud of you achieving the School Values award
Well Done!



Congratulations Alfie!
What a fantastic achievement - getting your certificate for your progress in science at school.

AMAZING WORK!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



What fabulous costumes and spooky decorations – super job Seven-Tru, Reine-Tru, Arlo, Paris, Zeb-Ali, Harper, Bailey and Nevaeh!

First Steam Railway Journeys!

CONGRATS!



Create Your Own

Future

What do you want to achieve? Where do you want to go? Who do you want to be? What activities do you love? Who do you want in your friendship groups? What do you want to learn or experience?

It's great to have a clear vision of what you want. How about putting together your own vision board and really bringing your hopes and dreams to life.



We'd love to see and support your vision for the future.

Share your dreams with us

Send a photo of your vision board or future mind map to us via email – kidz@fccharity.org.uk

This challenge closes at the end of March 2025. All the entries will get into a draw to win a gift voucher to the brand or retailer of your choice. Let us be on your support team!

By sharing your aspirations, others will be able to help you get to where you want to go. It helps you and everyone to focus on what is important to you.



25th Anniversary Launch



THE Foster Care Charity has provided homes for over 1,300 children since 1999 Image: The Foster Care Company

Charity celebrates 25 years of caring

A charity has celebrated 25 years of fostering children.

The Foster Care Charity (FCC) in Malvern, Worcestershire, has provided homes for more than 1,300 children since 1999.

The charity, formerly known as the Foster Care Co-operative, said many of the children had stayed with their foster families until adulthood.

The average length of time a child remains with their FCC foster carers is more than three years, which is significantly higher than the national average.

The charity said this gives children the "stability, care, and love they need".

Nathan Russell

Sumerjit (Sam) Ram, CEO of the charity, said: "As we celebrate our rich history, we are mindful of the sad fact that there are more children than ever in the care system, all looking for loving homes."

"To put it in some perspective, on average, eight referrals per day were being received in 2008 and now we receive 310."

"We believe that every child has the right to experience a loving home and we remain committed to making that a reality for as many children as we can."

The charity said 35 per cent of its

carers had been fostering with the FCC for more than 10 years, with some fostering for more than 15 years.

One long-term carer said: "FCC has been there for us throughout our fostering journey."

"It's rewarding to see children grow, knowing we've made a lasting difference."

The charity said its focus had always been on "children feeling part of a family and having a place that they can call their home".

One of the children told FCC: "I never knew what a real family was until I lived with my foster family."

The charity received a 'Good' rating in its 2024 Ofsted report.

Ofsted inspectors said: "Carers are committed to the children and the children have developed trusting and meaningful relationships with them as a result."

The charity is now calling for more people to join them in fostering and helping children in need.

Anyone interested in fostering can contact the charity on 01684 882380 or visit their website at fcharity.org.uk.

CONTACT

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We celebrated our 25th birthday and our first year as an official charity in October 2024. Roxy our new head of finance whipped up some delicious cakes for the anniversary launch event at the FCC Malvern office. Carers in the East region enjoyed a birthday day out at Jimmy's Farm to celebrate and our Midlands foster families had a crazy birthday adventure at Walsall Ninja Warrior park! NW Carers had a fantastic evening at the theatre seeing The Wizard of Oz



