

BECOMING A FOSTER CARER

Your guide to fostering with TACT



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WELCOME



"TACT is the UK's Largest Fostering and Adoption Charity. With over 500 foster carers and adopters across England, Scotland and Wales, we've been helping to provide loving families for vulnerable children for 24 years.

As a charity everything we do is for the benefit of children in care and on the fringes of care. We are beyond profit, which means that all surplus income is invested back into our services, to ensure our carers and the children in our care receive the best possible support.

We work closely with fellow charities, central government and local authorities to improve the system for all looked after children. We fight for those children for whom the state is the parent, to ensure that the circumstances they have come from do not go on to define their life chances.

We work tirelessly to recruit, train and support our foster carers and we employ experienced and highly skilled Social Workers and Children's Resource Workers. This ensures that every placement receives the dedicated support required to achieve the best possible outcome for the children in our care.

Our foster carers, adopters and staff work together to ensure children's needs are met. I am proud to be part of an organisation that is helping looked after children to realise their aspirations and I hope that after reading this information pack that you will consider joining us."

Andy Elvin
TACT Chief Executive

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

The reasons children come into care vary widely, including a parent's short-term illness or another temporary problem within the family. Some children may have witnessed domestic violence or a parent's depression or drug or alcohol misuse. Others may have been abused or neglected. Each child's circumstances and needs are unique, however they do have one thing in common; they all need security, stability and a safe place to call home.

Each day across the UK over 64,000 children live with 55,000 foster families and over the course of 12 months around 30,000 more children will come into care. Being a foster carer is a job like no other, below are just a few of the responsibilities involved.

Provide Care and Support

Our foster carers provide loving homes and life-changing day to day care for children who are unable to live with their families. Part of your role as a foster carer will involve you keeping written records and managing information about the child that is confidential and sensitive.

Advocacy

In addition to everyday care, you will act as an advocate for any children in placement. You will be required to attend meetings with a range of different professionals, to discuss and plan for all aspects of the child's development, including educational attainment and physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Understanding and Managing Behaviour

Children who are unable to live with their birth family may display difficult or challenging behaviours, as a way of dealing with the upheaval and uncertainty in their lives. Part of your role as a foster carer is to help the children in your care to understand their feelings and emotions and work with them to develop strategies to manage them in a positive way.

Promote Contact with Families

Foster carers play an important role in helping to ensure that, where appropriate, children can maintain links with their birth family through regular contact. Carers are involved in making contact arrangements and transport for the child.

"Fostering was one of the best decisions I ever made. It's incredibly rewarding and there are magical moments... giving kids life experiences that should be 'normal' but that they've missed out on so far."

→ *Andy – TACT Foster Carer since 2007*

WHO CAN FOSTER?



Our foster carers come from all kinds of backgrounds, cultures and ethnic groups. Your sexuality, marital status, age and whether you own a home do not determine your suitability as a foster carer, therefore they will not impact on your fostering application.

By far the most important criteria for becoming a foster carer is your ability to listen and empathise, to provide a stable and loving home and to speak up for the children you care for.

If you meet the following criteria, we would be happy to complete an initial enquiry with you and discuss your suitability as a foster carer in more detail:

- You must be over 21
- You must have a spare bedroom
- You must be a full-time resident in the UK or have indefinite leave to remain

WHY FOSTER WITH TACT?

TACT is the UK's largest fostering charity and we've been helping to provide loving families for vulnerable children for 24 years. As a charity, we put young people at the heart of every decision we make and we passionately believe that all children deserve to live in loving, safe and stable homes. Unlike many Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) we are not driven by profit, but by the best possible outcomes, which is why all our surplus income is put back into services for our carers and the children you look after.

A Voice for Children in Care

We are more than just a fostering agency - we also campaign and raise awareness of issues faced by children in care across the UK. We seek to influence public policy around care, working with politicians, civil servants and other stakeholders to argue for positive change and to help ensure that looked after children achieve their aspirations.

We also have specific groups such as our 'Children's Champions' and 'Carer's Forum' that ensure both carers and young people are involved in shaping the way we do things across the organisation.

Excellent Local Authority Partnerships

As the UK's largest charity provider of fostering and adoption services, TACT has been working with Local Authorities for over 24 years.

We work with 106 Local Authorities across England, Scotland and Wales. Our reputation for excellence and the provision of quality services means that we have an outstanding record of achieving Tier 1 provider status – this means that we are quite often one of the first agencies that Local Authorities turn to, to find families for children in their care.

TACT VISION & VALUES

Better lives for our children and young people

Aspirational – by helping others to grow, we grow ourselves.

Passionate – we are determined to keep improving what we do. We will ambitiously pursue the best outcomes for everyone we work with and strive for excellence in all we do.

Customer Focussed – we shall listen and respond to the people we work with, children and young people, their birth families, carers, our staff, our supporters and Local Authorities.

Fair and Equitable – we will be open and transparent, communicating what we do and why we do it, based on equality and respect for all.

Beyond Profit – reinvesting our resources into services for our carers and improving outcomes for children and young people.

TRANSFER TO TACT

We understand that there are a number of reasons why, as an approved foster carer, you might consider leaving your Local Authority or Fostering Agency. If you are thinking of transferring we would be happy to hear from you, to help you explore your options and explain what makes us different to other agencies.

We Are Not Driven by Profit

We offer competitive foster carer fees and allowances, however as a charity, unlike some IFAs, we do not offer financial incentives to transfer to us. In fact many of the carers who have transferred to TACT say that it is our charity status that first appealed to them. Carers come to us because we do not profit from the care of vulnerable children, all of our surplus income is reinvested into our service to ensure that our carers receive the best support possible – something that money can't buy.

Partners Not Providers

We are highly thought of by the Local Authorities with whom we work. As a charity we are often seen as more than just a fostering provider, we are partners in creating brighter futures for vulnerable children and young people. We are on the majority of contracts across the UK, holding Tier 1 status on many, which ensures that we receive high volumes of referrals for children and young people needing a placement.

A Child-Centred Approach

We are proactive in advocating for the rights of all children in care. Our child-centred approach means that everything that we do is in the best interest of children and young people. This includes ensuring our Supervising Social Workers have the time and resource to provide foster carers with the support that they need, when they need it.



Case Study Jane and Ruth – Transferred to TACT in 2016

"A real passion for improving children's services"

"We had been fostering for 6 years, but were feeling a little unsettled. The fostering agency we were with seemed to be becoming more 'business like' and less 'child focussed'. I did some research and we liked TACT due to its charity status. I then read some very interesting articles written by the Chief Executive, and felt that he had a real passion for improving children's services. He had also been a foster carer himself, and so we felt that he would have a good understanding of carer's needs."

YOUR FOSTERING JOURNEY

Our carers often tell us that they had thought about fostering for many years before they finally took the first step to apply. For many, not knowing what to expect of the process is very daunting. As such we've outlined the typical fostering application process below, it usually takes around six months to complete, but we are there with you every step of the way to answer questions and provide support.

1 INITIAL ENQUIRY

At this stage you are not making any commitment, the initial enquiry is an opportunity for you to find out more about fostering and the application process. We will ask a few questions about you and your motivation to become a foster carer and you can ask any questions that you may have, to help decide if it is something that you want to pursue.

2 HOME VISIT

One of our Supervising Social Workers will visit you at your home. During the visit you will have a more detailed discussion about your circumstances, your family, any experience that is relevant to fostering and your motivations to become a foster carer.

If you are married or live with a partner they are equally as important in your fostering application and as such will also need to be present at the home visit.

4 APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT

Now you are ready to start the formal process of applying to become a foster carer. You will be allocated a Supervising Social Worker who will work with you to complete a detailed assessment of your suitability to become a foster carer – this is called a Form F assessment.

The assessment involves a number of checks including medical, financial, DBS (in England and Wales) or PVG (in Scotland) and references (both employer and personal). Checks will also be carried out on other adult members of the household – your Social Worker will explain in more detail what the checks entail and who needs to be involved.

Alongside the checks you will have regular meetings with your Social Worker where you will have detailed discussions on a range of subjects relevant to your suitability to become a foster carer.

5 APPROVAL

The final stage of the application process is the panel review. All of the information gathered during your assessment will be compiled into a single report which will be presented to the fostering panel.

Our fostering panel is made up of a group of experienced, independent care professionals who will review your assessment and make a recommendation to TACT about your suitability as a foster carer.

Carers often tell us that they get anxious at this stage, but there is really no need to worry. You will meet with your Supervising Social Worker on a regular basis throughout your assessment and they will raise any concerns that they have well in advance of you going to panel.

3 INTRODUCTORY TRAINING

Skills to Foster is a three day introductory training course, it will give you an insight into your role as a foster carer, the expectations of you and your family and an awareness of some of the other people that you will be required to work with, e.g. the child's family, their social worker and other professionals.

The course will be insightful and sometimes emotional as you explore some of the reasons that children come into care, the experiences that they may have had and your role in helping to manage their behaviour and development.

6 YOUR FIRST PLACEMENT

Your journey doesn't end with approval – it's just the start! As soon as you are approved we will begin the process of matching you to your first placement and will continue to support you through every step of your fostering career.

SUPPORTING YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

We passionately believe that all children deserve to live in friendly, safe and stable homes and as a charity we put all of our surplus income back into services to support you and the children that you care for. Fostering is a hugely rewarding but sometimes challenging role, as a TACT foster carer you can be reassured that you will receive outstanding local support every step of the way.

As the UK's largest fostering charity, we have a network of Social Workers and support staff across England, Scotland and Wales to ensure you have access to local support whenever you need it, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Training and Development

At TACT we are committed to ensuring that we provide you with the training and development, that enables you to develop the skills and experience you need to manage any challenges that you may be faced with. Foster carer training starts early in the application process and continues throughout your fostering career.

We make it as easy as possible for our foster carers to continue their learning and development, and offer over 80 different training courses, as well as access to up to date research and other resources via Research in Practice. Learning can be accessed in many ways; it could be in one of our offices, one-on-one with your Social Worker or online, depending on what works best for you.

Supporting Lasting Placements

We believe that creating stable, lasting placements is the best way to enable children in care to thrive. This is why we place such great emphasis on matching each child with a fostering family that has the skills, experience and environment to meet their needs.

From the start of your journey with TACT we will work closely with you to understand what makes you unique as a foster carer or fostering family. We will consult with you and listen to you at every step of the way, ensuring that we really understand you and the traits, skills and experience that you have to offer a child.

Once a placement is confirmed we will carefully plan the support that you and the child need to ensure it has the best chance of being successful.

"I'd recommend anyone to become a TACT foster carer, they have always given us the support we need to make a real difference to the lives of some amazing young people."

→ Gary & Colin - TACT Foster Carers since 2007



AS A TACT FOSTER CARER YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM:

- Competitive fostering fees and allowances
- Local support and advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Your own designated Supervising Social Worker to support you throughout your fostering journey
- All surplus income being invested back into support services for you and the children that you care for
- A comprehensive training and professional development programme
- A national network of foster carers offering peer support
- The opportunity to attend regular support groups and meetings
- Regular events for children and young people in care
- 24 years experience providing fostering services
- Specialist support for birth children and foster children from our Children's Resource Workers



Case Study Pam, TACT Foster Carer since 2006

“Seeing a child smile, being happy and feel safe is what it’s all about”

“Becoming a foster carer has always been an interest to me, but due to family circumstances I postponed it until I thought I was fully ready to take the plunge. This was spurred on during my time working as a Classroom Assistant within a primary school and having further experience with disadvantaged children. I would regularly return home after a day at school with many concerns of children and their welfare.

It was actually my ex-husband that prompted me to act on my passion to become a foster carer. I randomly looked it up and found TACT. I completed lots of research and it became quite apparent the support offered by TACT was exemplary in comparison to other known agencies. The rest is history!

I love getting to know the young individuals I care for, witnessing each of them thrive, develop and achieve their full potential socially, educationally and emotionally. Seeing a child smile, being happy and feel part of a safe family unit is what it’s all about.

Of course, there are also challenges when fostering, just like there is when you bring your own children up. Coping with personal family circumstances and a 24 hour working role, but it is totally worth it.

I feel all of my fostering experiences have been successes, I feel every day of providing a safe loving environment, and continuity of life will always make a difference to any child’s wellbeing.

Advice I would give to others thinking about fostering would be to think positively, accept each child’s circumstances as they are unique. Be honest to yourself and to any family members of the impact fostering will have and don’t be afraid to ask for advice and help.”

FOSTERING FEES AND ALLOWANCES

TACT is the UK’s largest fostering and adoption charity. Unlike many other Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) we do not profit from the care of vulnerable children. All of our surplus income is reinvested into our services and support for our foster carers and the children in their care.

The payment you receive from TACT will be made up of two elements, which are calculated on a weekly basis per child in placement.

The Maintenance Allowance for the Child – this covers the costs of everything that you need to care for a child such as food, clothing, transport, personal items and household expenses.

The Foster Carer Fee – this is effectively your salary for the time and skill dedicated to fostering.

The amount that you receive for each of these components will vary depending on a number of factors, including the type of placement, the age of each child and the complexity of their needs.

In addition to the weekly fees you will also be entitled to a range of additional payments to cover special occasions and circumstances, such as buying birthday gifts for children in placement, holiday allowances to cover additional costs during school holidays and some additional travel costs.

Self-employment and Tax Relief

As a foster carer you are classed as self-employed and your earnings will be subject to special tax arrangements. In most cases this will mean that you will pay very low, if any tax on your income from fostering. In addition if you currently receive benefits, these may still be paid alongside your fostering payments.

It is important to consider that fees and allowances are only paid while you have a child in placement, as part of the assessment process we will discuss your financial circumstances and how you would manage for any period that you do not have a placement.

“Becoming a foster carer is the best and most rewarding thing I’ve ever done. When you see the changes you can make to a young person’s life it’s great.”

→ Colin, TACT foster carer

More information can be found in our Fees and Allowances leaflet



Case Study Rob and Bob, TACT Foster Carers since 2014

“By offering our time and attention, they’ve been able to blossom and find their own personalities.”

“Bob and I had planned for quite a while to become foster carers, and even purposely bought a bigger house. Soon after we’d been cleared to welcome someone else into our lives, we went from zero children to three – which was quite a shock! Our daily routines changed and there was an overwhelming responsibility placed on us.

The first few weeks were hectic. We met with their school, social workers, opticians, GPs and the dentist. But we’d been fortunate to have our families help us immensely. We also had a superb team at our fostering agency TACT, and local authority social services.

Over the past year, we’ve learnt that children don’t really want materialistic things in life. By offering our time and attention, they’ve been able to blossom and find their own personalities.

But education isn’t just gained in school. A holiday, a meal out, or even just a trip to the park enables a child to develop confidence. We even have four miniature schnauzers and, of course, each child has a favourite. The dogs have helped develop responsibility as they recognise when they need to be cared for.

Bob and I love being foster carers and feel an immense sense of pride in being able to have such a positive impact on the lives of our children who, sadly, may have been through trauma. It’s tough, at times we’re faced with challenges but it’s part of the package.

Children enrich your lives; they have ours. They could yours. We’ve learnt so much over the past year and we would encourage anyone to consider taking up the challenge of becoming a foster carer. It really has changed our lives.”

TYPES OF FOSTERING

Because each child that comes into care is unique, we provide different types of fostering placements. We believe that success in fostering and achieving the best outcomes for children in care has a great deal to do with the matching process between child and foster family. As such, we will work with you throughout your fostering assessment to understand which types of fostering are right for you, to ensure that once approved, we make the right match.

Emergency Foster Care

Emergency placements usually happen with very little notice and generally last just a few days while the future plans for the child are made. Due to the unpredictable nature of these placements a great deal of flexibility is required from our foster carers and you can expect to develop your skills quite rapidly as you begin taking a number of varied placements.

Short Term Foster Care

Short term foster care is for children and young people who need to be looked after for a short period of time while a permanent care arrangement is made. This can be returning home, adoption, special guardianship or long term foster placement. Short term placements can last from a few days to a few months or sometimes even longer. Short term fostering can be extremely varied as there will be a huge number of reasons why the child requires this type of care.

Long Term Foster Care

Long term foster care is for children and young people who are unable to return to their birth family and need a more permanent, stable home. As a long term foster placement they will usually stay with you for their entire childhood to the age of 18, or 21 under the new staying put arrangement.

Fostering Siblings

Joining a new family and a new home can be a difficult experience for any young person, but when they are also separated from a sibling this can be truly devastating. Wherever we can, we try to keep sibling groups together when they go into foster care. Having their brother or sister there to support them through the difficult experience can make a huge difference to how children settle into their new foster home.

Fostering sibling groups can sometimes be challenging, but it is also extremely rewarding. We provide all of our foster carers who take on sibling groups training and support to ensure that they are able to provide the best possible care.

Respite Foster Care

Respite foster care placements are designed to give families and foster carers a network of support when they most need it. As a respite placement, a child or young person will stay with you for a short period of time, usually somewhere between a weekend and a fortnight, before returning home. As a respite carer you will join your local network of carers to support each other with respite care when required.

Remand Foster Care

This type of placement is designed to offer a safe family environment to alleged young offenders from the age of 10, while they are awaiting trial or sentencing. Being held in custody can be damaging for vulnerable young people, perpetuating a cycle of imprisonment and reoffending. We believe that remand foster care offers young people the support needed to rethink their actions to turn away from a troubled life. This type of care can seem quite daunting and requires specific skills and experience such as being empathetic to young people with complex needs, resilient, patient and non-judgemental. We'll support you with training and guidance, to ensure that together we can give the young person the support they need to steer them away from a pattern of repeat offending.

Child and Parent Foster Care

Child and parent fostering is when a child is placed with you, along with their parent or parents who need extra support to care for the child. In some cases the parent(s) might just need some extra help and advice, there might be concerns about drug or alcohol use, or it might be a health problem that is making parenting difficult. In all cases, the aim of this type of placement is to help ensure that the child and parent(s) can remain together. As a child and parent carer you may need to take on various different roles, sometimes you will need to provide full care to the child and mentor the parent, whereas in other cases you will need to step back and review how well the parent is coping.

Children with Disabilities

We are always in need of more people who can offer specialist care to children with complex needs, which can include physical disabilities, medical conditions or learning difficulties. Caring for a child with a disability can be hugely rewarding as you give the child the opportunity to reach their full potential and we will be with you every step of the way providing support and training.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Every day, more and more children are entering the UK seeking asylum. Many children have been separated from their families and need a safe, stable home here in the UK to enable them to start rebuilding their lives. Fostering young people who are seeking asylum does come with its challenges as they are often extremely distressed and frightened as a result of the overwhelming experience they have been through. Some will speak little or no English and may not always be aware of things we do as part of our British culture.

Caring for a young person who is seeking asylum is hugely rewarding as you start to see them settle into their new life in the UK. As a foster carer, you can help to teach these children ways to overcome their traumatic past and the skills they need to successfully build a new life.



FOSTERING TEENAGERS

Teenage years can be a difficult for everyone, imagine how much harder it would be if you weren't able to live with your family. At this critical time in their lives, teenagers need carers who will offer clear guidance and support, and help them to manage their feelings and emotions in a positive way.



Case Study Diane, TACT Foster Carer since 2005

“Being a foster carer is the best job in the world. There are children that need help and I’m here for them.”

“I was taken into care at a very young age, before being adopted. I haven’t one happy memory of my childhood and I always said to myself that one day, I would look after other children because I wouldn’t want them to suffer as I had.

Once my three beautiful children were all grown up, I contacted TACT. I started the fostering training – you meet other foster carers and there is a continuous programme of training and support. You have to be really committed but you have support every step of the way.

Since 2005 I have fostered 14 children and young people. I’ve wanted to show them that there is life after care; because something bad happened to you as a child, you are not worthless, you can still make something of yourself. The children are always quite shocked when I say, ‘I know, I understand, I’ve been there.’

There have been some very tough challenges but I have absolutely loved it. One young lady has been with me nine years. When she came, she couldn’t talk, and sat cowered in a corner with a hood over her head. Now she has taken a course at the local college, she helps out at an animal centre and a riding centre and does activities at the youth club.

She lives with me under a shared lives scheme and will stay with me for life. The other young lady living me now is off to university soon.

A different young lady who came to me had been to 15 foster homes in 15 years. She arrived saying ‘Don’t think I’m staying!’ She stayed for three years. When she came to live me, she loved ice skating, so at the age of 55 I learned to do it too. Three teenagers living here also taught me how to ride a bike. So the children have changed my life in different ways too.

I have no regrets whatsoever and I won’t be retiring just yet. I love my job, it is the best in the world. There are still children out there who need help and I’m here for them.

Being a foster carer really is the best job in the world. You’re on a journey from the moment you get the children. What’s really great is when they come back and visit. The first boy we ever fostered came back to us on one New Year’s Eve as he just wanted to talk. He was 18 years old at this point and he just gave me a big hug and said ‘Mam, I’m so pleased to see you’. We talked about what he’d been up to and his plans for the future. It meant so much for him to come back to us.”

FAQS

We know that deciding to become a foster carer is a big step, it's likely that you have lots of questions and you will probably think of lots more as you go through the application process. Below are just a few of the most frequently asked questions, but don't worry if the answer to your question isn't here, it's important that you get all of the information that you need, to decide whether fostering is right for you and your family, so we will be with you every step of the way to answer any questions.

Is there an age limit for fostering?

There is no upper age limit for fostering, but you need to be fit enough to care for the children. Younger people need to be mature and experienced enough to enable them to cope with the responsibility.

Do I have to own my own home to foster?

No, you can foster if your home is rented, however the tenancy must be in your name, with no risk or eviction or rent arrears. As part of the assessment process we will seek references from either your landlord if rented, or the bank if you have a mortgage.

Can I foster if I am single?

Yes, you do not have to be married or in a relationship to foster.

Can I foster if I am gay?

Yes, your sexuality does not affect your ability to foster. We welcome applications from people regardless of gender, sexuality, marital status, race or religion.

Am I able to foster if I am working?

This is something that we would assess on a case by case basis. It is important that as a foster carer you are able to be flexible around the needs of the children in placement and often carers find it difficult to balance this with the demands of a full time job. However many of our carers are able to combine flexible or part-time working patterns with being a foster carer.

Can I foster if I have a criminal conviction?

We will assess each potential foster carer on an individual basis and discuss the impact of any convictions on their ability to become a foster carer. If you have convictions we ask that you tell us about them when you make your initial enquiry, to ensure that we can advise you correctly. We will carry out police checks as part of the fostering application process, however early disclosure and honesty are important.

Can I foster if I smoke?

The health of the children in your care will always be our priority. Smoking will not necessarily prevent you from fostering, however it will be a requirement that you do not smoke in your home or in your car and it will limit the age range that you are able to foster.

Do I have to be able to drive?

In most areas, being able to drive isn't essential, as long as you have access to suitable transport that enables you to fulfil the duties required of a foster carer. These include getting the child or young person to and from school and appointments, as well as enabling you to get to and from training and meetings with your Social Worker as required.

Can I apply to foster with TACT if I have been turned down by my Local Authority or another agency?

Yes, we welcome enquiries from anyone interested in fostering and will assess each application on an individual basis. Having an application turned down by another agency doesn't necessarily mean we will draw the same conclusions.

It would be helpful to let us know about any prior applications during your initial contact, we will then work with you to understand the reasons behind their decisions and independently assess your circumstances and application.

Will I get paid for looking after a child?

Yes, the amount you will receive as a foster carer will be split into two components, the foster carer fee and the maintenance allowance. The value of each of these will depend on variety of factors, such as the type of placement, the age of the child and the complexity of their needs (see page 13 for more detail).

Will I get paid if I have no placements?

No, as a foster carer you will be self-employed and will only be paid when you have a child or young person placed in your care.

Once approved we will work with you to try to ensure you have placements regularly. Having flexibility in the ages and types of children you are open to fostering will improve your chances of getting placements regularly.

Will I have to pay extra tax if I receive money for fostering?

Foster carers in the UK are subject to special tax arrangements which mean you will pay much lower levels of tax (see page 13 for more detail).

Who decides which children I foster?

We do this together. We believe that matching the right child with the right carers is one of the most important factors in ensuring a placement is successful. As such once approved we will ensure that we work closely with you to match the right child to you, your family and your skills and experience. You will be fully consulted before any decision is made to go ahead with the placement.

What age will the children be?

The children can be any age from 0-18, however we receive very few referrals for children under 5 years of age.

During your application and assessment we will work with you to understand the ages and types of children that you would like to foster. We would encourage you to be as open and flexible as possible as this will increase the likelihood of us being able to place a child with you.

Can foster children share a bedroom with other children?

In most circumstances no, the only time foster children are allowed to share a room is if they are same-sex siblings. In this case you would need to be approved to care for siblings and have a spare room that has adequate space for more than one child.

How will my birth children be affected?

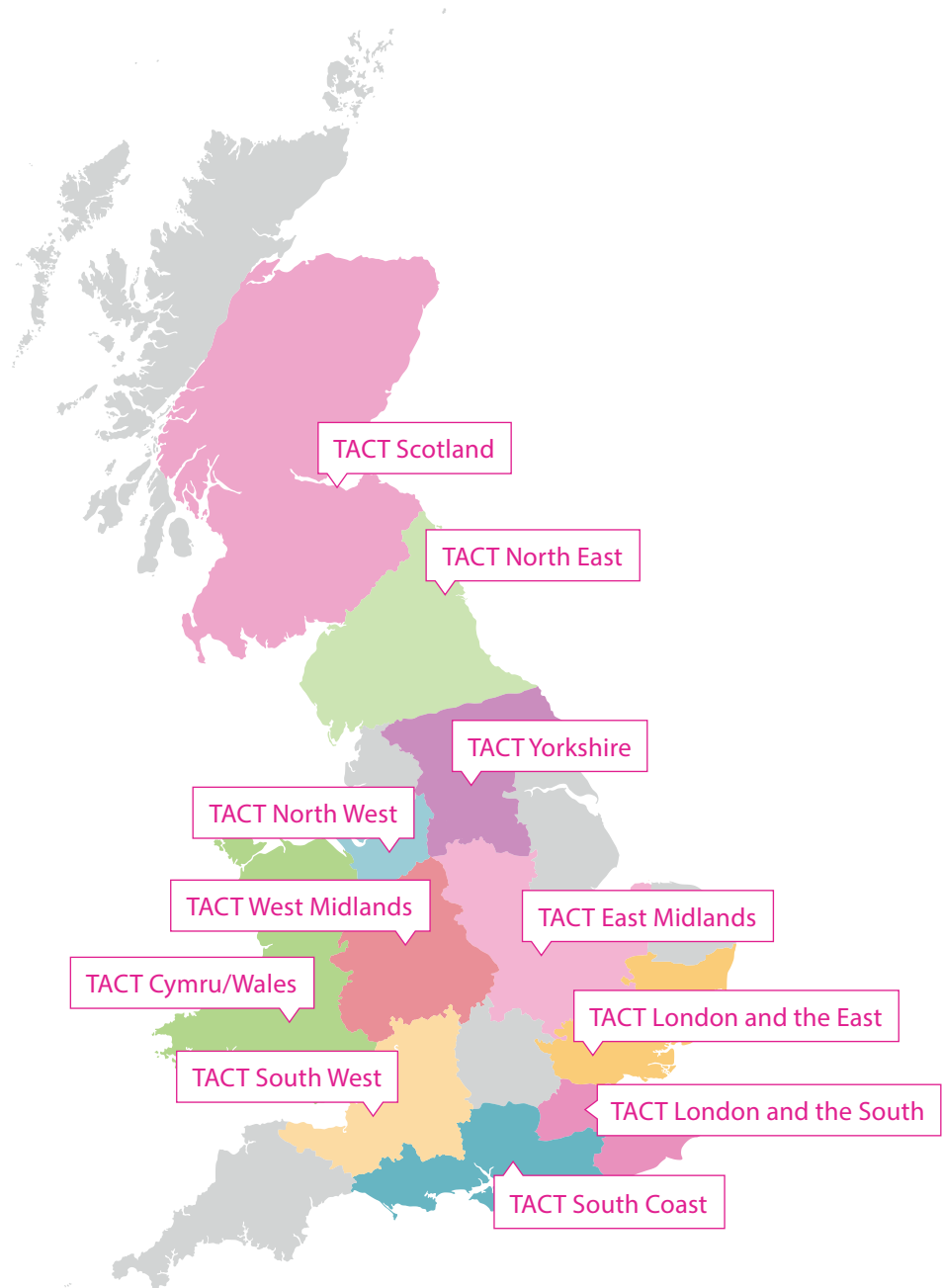
Fostering involves the whole family and can be a positive and transformative experience for your birth children, as well as any foster children placed with you.

Your birth children will be included in the application and assessment process, your Supervising Social Worker will meet with them to discuss their thoughts and feelings about fostering and to answer any questions that they may have.

Once you are approved as a foster carer, your birth children will have access to ongoing support from your Social Worker and our Children's Resource Workers to help them through any challenges that they face as a result of being part of a fostering family.

TACT in Your Area

We understand how important it is to you to foster with an organisation that is always there for you – you'll be pleased to know that wherever you are in the country, we are never far away and promise to be there for you whenever you need us.



For more information about fostering:

Visit: www.tactcare.org.uk

Call: 0330 123 2250

@tactcare

/tactcare

