

# Fostering Asylum seeking young people

## Helping to rebuild their future

**We need foster carers who can provide safe, caring and supportive homes to vulnerable children and young people who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum.**

When children and young people arrive in the UK they have often suffered difficult past experiences, are frightened and confused. They need people and families who can offer them a safe home where they can start to rebuild their future and make a new life for themselves. They are motivated learners and are keen to gain as many qualifications and skills as possible and need people who can support them with this. This factsheet will give you some brief information about what is involved in caring for an unaccompanied minor:

### We are looking for people who:

- Have one or more spare bedrooms
- Are prepared to commit to support young people to independence
- Are positive, resilient, patient, caring and emotionally committed
- Can drive and have access to a car.

### Where are the children and young people from?

Children and young people tend to be from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq and Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan and Vietnam.

### How old are the young people that need care?

Most young people are aged 14 years plus but we do sometimes have children who are younger than this.

### What support do they need?

- Support to learn independence skills e.g. use of public transport, budgeting and money management
- To assist with orientation, practical help with finding their way around the local area
- Help to network with people in their community
- Help to understand the reality of what will happen next
- Support through difficult past experiences or negative life experiences
- Support to access education and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) course
- Support to access faith groups
- Support to engage in community activities and events
- Support to attend health screenings and appointments
- Support and encouragement to attend young asylum group meetings
- Support at solicitor's appointments regarding their asylum claim.

### The rewards:

- Being part of a team helping a young person improve their health, educational and life chances
- Supporting a young person during transition, helping them develop life and independence skills and build a better future
- Enabling a young person to settle within their local community
- Develop your own skills with our excellent training and support package.

### In return you will receive:

- A supervising social worker for you and your family who will provide support, advice and guidance
- Frequent face to face visits from the Looked After Children's team and child's social worker
- Access to out of hours support
- An allowance for the child and a fee for you
- A comprehensive professional team around the young person including interpreters
- Regular support groups and social events
- A mentoring scheme to offer you support and encouragement from an experienced foster carer
- A comprehensive training programme including access to elearning
- Support from the Local Authority to assist young person with their asylum claim.

**If you would like to speak to our Duty Social Worker and take your enquiry further you can reach us on 0300 300 8181.**

*"The rewards are abundant knowing that you have helped to give a child a more happy, safe and hopeful future"*