




We **are** By the Bridge. We **are** Fostering.

by**the**bridge
with **Cambian**

A young woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped sweater and a brown backpack, is smiling and looking at her smartphone in a school hallway. In the background, other students are blurred, and wooden lockers are visible.

"You can make a difference to a child's life today by becoming a Foster Parent with By the Bridge."

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What is Fostering?

Fostering is all about providing day to day support and a stable, caring home to a child when their parents or family are unable to look after them.

Every fostering journey is different and every foster child and family are unique. It's what makes fostering so rewarding.

It can also be a great career. You'll see your hard work make a difference to their lives – and you'll be paid to help give children the support and encouragement they need.

"We welcome applications from people who are single or in a relationship, irrespective of gender, religion, race or sexual orientation."



Could you be a Foster Parent?

To foster with By the Bridge, you will:

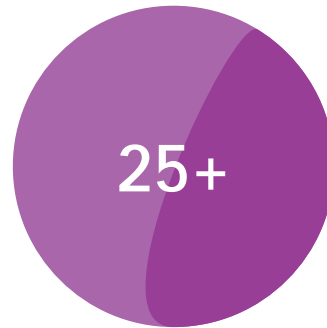
Need a spare room



It doesn't matter if you own your own property or rent - as long as you have the landlords permission to foster.

Each foster child will likely need their own room, although siblings can sometimes share.

Be aged 25+



There is no upper age limit as long as you are fit and healthy. By the Bridge requires all their Foster Parents to be at least 25 years old. The reason for this is because we have children as old as 17 in our care.

Need to be available full time



We believe that at least one Foster Parent in the household should be at home on a full time basis, incase they are required at short notice. However, there are some exceptions to this. This is to ensure that the young person in your care is looked after in the best way possible.

Need to have stability



We welcome applications from people who are single or in a relationship, irrespective of gender, religion, race or sexual orientation.

The most important thing for a child is stability.

A man and a woman are smiling and embracing each other outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt and a dark jacket. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark top and a dark jacket. They are standing in front of a wooden wall. A white door is visible on the right side of the image. The lighting is warm, suggesting it might be late afternoon or early morning.

"Our unique approach to fostering puts the Foster Parents at the centre of our team."

Who are By the Bridge?

We are By the Bridge, a leading independent fostering organisation. We find and train Foster Parents so that young people in care get a better chance in life as a result of their foster family's commitment and dedication.

Our unique approach to fostering puts the Foster Parents at the centre of our team, supporting them so they can support the development and progress of a child. Seeing a child in care discover their full potential and giving them the best possible chance at happiness to achieve their personal best is what makes fostering with us so rewarding.

With over 15 years experience of helping children rebuild their lives, our high quality work is in high demand. Over 100+ Local Authorities have children placed with us, and every month more children are referred to us than we can possibly look after, which is why we are always looking for high quality foster families that can offer a good home to as many children as possible.



"With ongoing training and support we enable our Foster Parents to nurture and develop children to become the best they can be."

What makes us different?

We're frequently asked what makes By the Bridge different from other providers. The answer for us is simple: Children are at the heart of everything we do and have been since our first Foster Parent joined us in 2002.

For us, children being at the heart of everything we do isn't just a statement, but the very foundations on which our organisation is built. By the Bridge was established with the notion that by implementing a therapeutic approach to fostering we really will change children's lives. We teach our Foster Parents to not only see a child's behaviour, but to understand it and enable them to respond in a therapeutic way. A Foster Parent then understands why a child behaves in a certain way – even if they don't know themselves.

With ongoing training and support, we enable our Foster Parents to nurture and develop a child to become the best they can be.

The end results we achieve speak for themselves, with children leaving our care as young adults with qualifications, confidence and the foundations for their futures.



"Some children may need fostering as a result of family, financial or behavioural reasons..."

Children in our care

12 is the average age of the children in our care

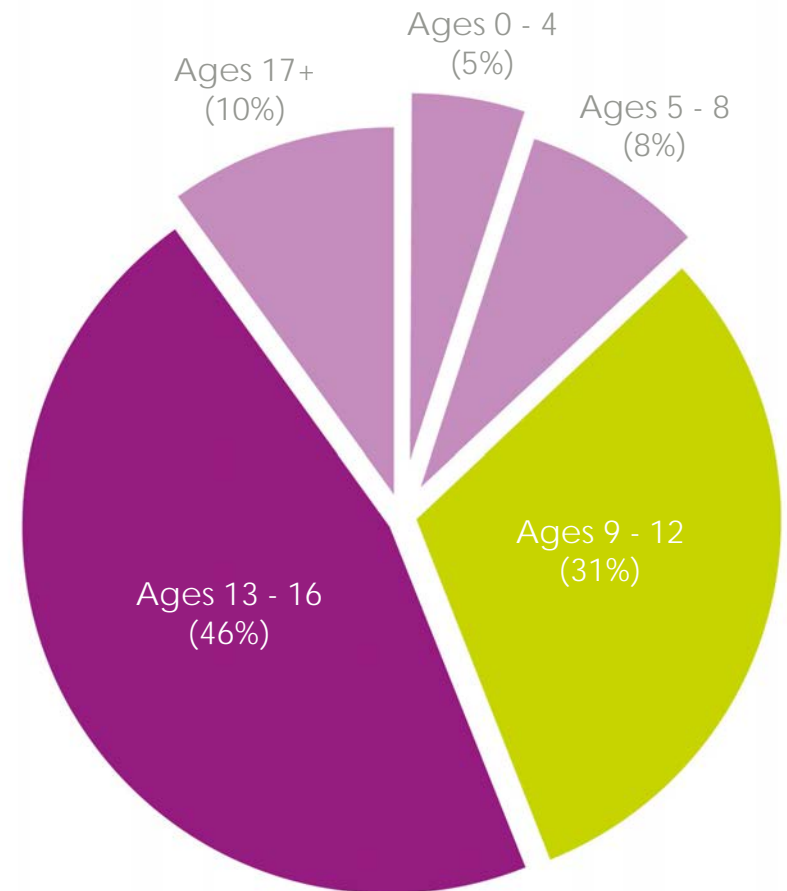
12 and under is the age of half of the children in our care

Did you know?

Children need fostering for a variety of reasons. Some children may need fostering as a result of family, financial or behavioural reasons, whilst others may be because of abuse or neglect.

Whilst there are several different types of fostering, most placements with By the Bridge are on an emergency basis which normally results in short or long term placements. Every child is different and so is every placement.

By the Bridge does not require Foster Parents who are only looking to foster on a respite only basis unless they have previous experience of fostering.



All the statistics on this page are based on data from May 2019



"We're available 24/7, 365 days a year, with a dedicated support team for out of hours calls."

What we offer our Foster Parents

Fostering can be challenging work and we reward our Foster Parents by offering the following:

EXTENSIVE SUPPORT

We're available 24/7, 365 days a year, with a dedicated support team for out of hours calls.

We also have regular support groups at our offices where you can talk to other Foster Parents.

Day or night; we'll be there when you need us!

GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

We're well connected - namely due to the fact we are well known for offering our high quality services since 2002.

This means over 500 children a week are referred to us from over 100 Local Authorities.

COMPETITIVE PAY

By the Bridge Foster Parents are treated as professionals and we believe it's important that they are given financial payments that cover the costs of caring for the children they look after.

With By the Bridge you'll receive great weekly pay and benefits. You can find out more about this at an information event.

EXCELLENT ALLOWANCES

We offer a variety of allowances, ranging from 21 nights paid annual respite to long service awards for our Foster Parents.

For the children in our care, we provide clothing, holiday and festival allowances as well as offering regular fun days and events for foster and birth children.

A photograph of two women sitting on a blue couch, smiling and looking at each other. The woman on the left has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a light pink V-neck shirt. The woman on the right has long, straight brown hair and is wearing a dark red cardigan over a black top. They are both smiling warmly at each other. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

"On average the fostering assessment process usually takes around 12 to 14 weeks."

How to become a Foster Parent

Below are the stages to become a Foster Parent with By the Bridge.

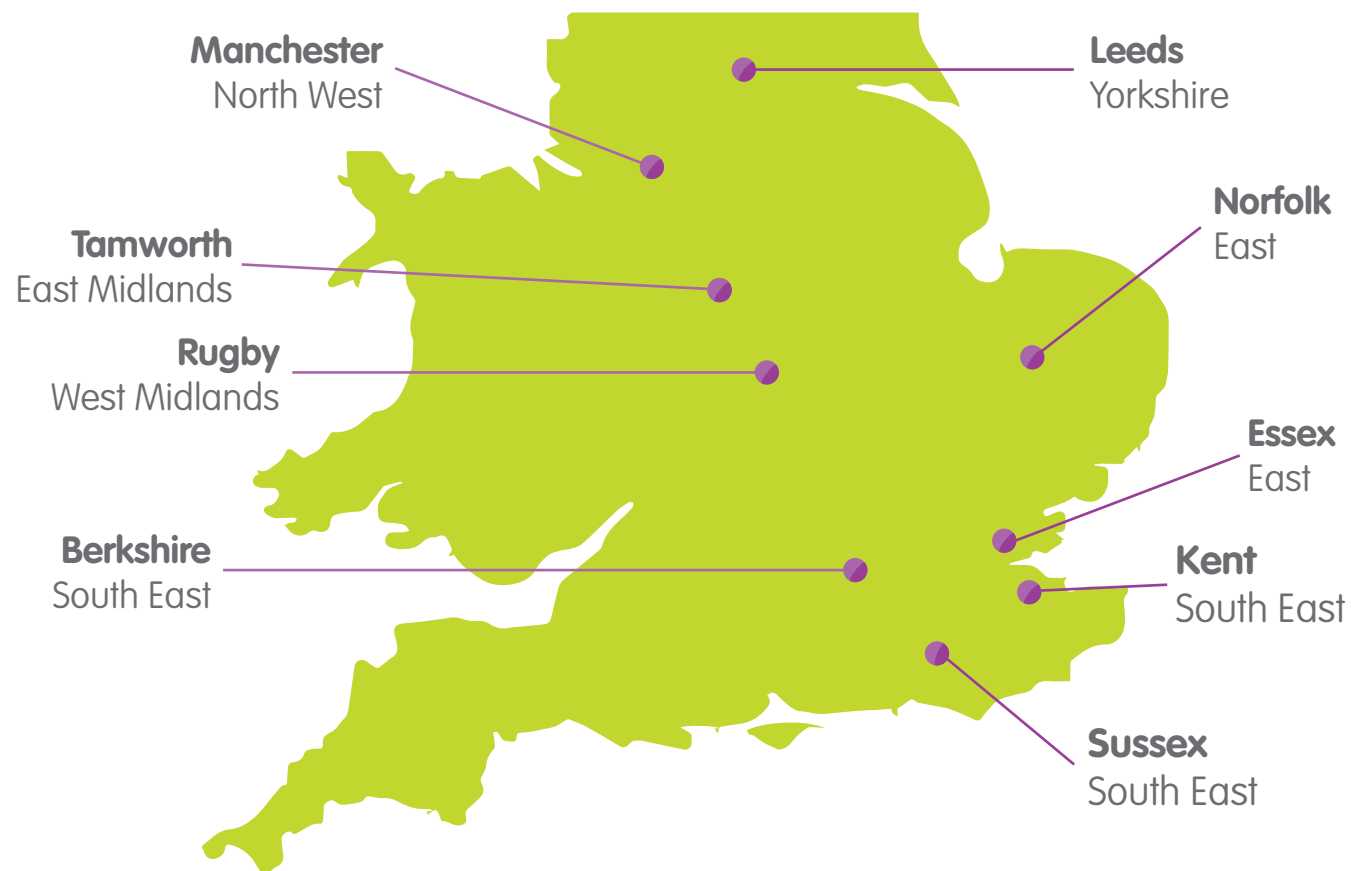



"We have countryside offices throughout the UK providing you with a local service."



Where we are

By the Bridge offers fostering services across the UK.



A diverse group of people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are seated in rows, smiling and looking towards the left side of the frame. They appear to be attending a presentation or a community meeting. The background is a brick wall, and the lighting is warm and natural.

"Fostering is a big decision, so we completely understand that you may have many questions that need answering before you apply."

Frequently Asked Questions

It's normal to have some initial questions when thinking about fostering. Here are some commonly asked questions taken from our information evenings.

Do I need to own my own home?

No, but you do need a settled home environment and a place children can feel safe and welcome. If you rent your property you will need written permission from your landlord before you apply to foster.

What will the children be like?

Most foster children, whatever their background, will have gone through some difficult experiences. This might change their behaviour, but they will also have plenty of special qualities too – just like any other child. It takes a special kind of person to look beyond a child's behaviour and understand that it is normally a symptom of something else they are trying to express.

I was in trouble with the police when I was younger – is this a problem?

Not necessarily. Of course, some serious offences would mean that you wouldn't be accepted for fostering. However, if you've gone through difficult times in the past, and used your experiences to become a stronger person today, you could be an ideal person to help turn a child's life around.

Are you only interested in male-female couples?

No, we're interested in people who have the right approach to make great Foster Parents, whatever their family situation. You just need to be sure that at least one person is ready to work as a full-time Foster Parent.



"Some of the By the Bridge team have even fostered themselves so they know first-hand what it's like."

So what happens next?

Find out all you need to know about fostering with By the Bridge

Once we have received your initial enquiry, we'll be in touch to organise a virtual 'initial visit' where we can find out more about you, your family and your home. It's an informal chat which will allow you to get to know us more and find out everything you need to know about becoming a Foster Parent with By the Bridge.

There's no commitment at this stage, just a fantastic opportunity to find out everything you've wanted to know about this exciting and rewarding career change where you'll have the chance to change the lives of many young people.

We look forward to speaking with you further, so be sure to complete our enquiry form today. The sooner you find out all about fostering with By the Bridge, the sooner you could be ready to welcome your first foster child.

Call us to find out more about fostering with By the Bridge today 0800 644 6230 or visit bythebridge.co.uk



bythebridge
with Cambian

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