

Date:

Friday 12 June 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Thornaby, TS17 6BJ

Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair)

Cllr Carol Clark (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Jack Miller

Agenda

1. Livestreaming

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Apologies for Absence

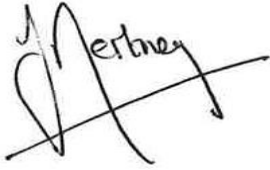
4. Declarations of Interest

5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 16)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2026

6. Fostering Friendly (Pages 17 - 32)

7. Forward Plan (Pages 33 - 34)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Date Not Specified

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Senior Democratic Services Officer, Michael Henderson on email rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

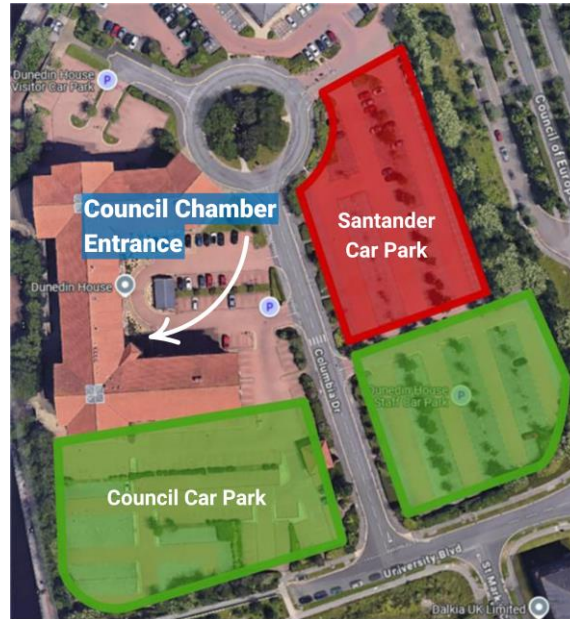
You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the South Entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 13 February 2026.

Present: Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair), Cllr John Coulson, (Sub for Cllr Jack Miller), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Jane Smith, Michael Henderson, Debbie Farrow, Janet Wilson, Chris Renahan

Also in attendance: Ryan Davies, Louise Addison

Apologies: Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Jack Miller

CPB /25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

CPB /25 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 October 2026 were approved as a correct record.

CPB /25 **Adoption Tees Valley**

The Board received a report from Adoption Tees Valley (ATV) providing an update on service activity, recruitment, placement sufficiency and adoption support arrangements.

Members noted recent national media attention regarding adoption disruption. It was explained that adoption placements across the Tees Valley remained stable. It was reported that only two Stockton adoption placements had been disrupted since ATV had been established in 2018 and both cases had involved complex circumstances. The Board heard that extensive safeguards were in place throughout the assessment, approval and matching process to ensure prospective adopters were fully informed and prepared to meet children's needs.

The Board discussed the increasing complexity of children's needs and noted that many children, placed for adoption, had experienced significant trauma, loss and adversity prior to placement. Members heard that trauma-informed practice was embedded throughout the adoption process, from adopter preparation and assessment through to post-adoption support.

Members sought assurance regarding the robustness of the approval process for adopters and the reasons why prospective adopters did not always progress through assessment. The Board was advised that all applications were subject to rigorous assessment and scrutiny, including consideration by the Adoption Panel, and that a range of factors could affect progression, including changes in personal circumstances and health considerations.

The Board also discussed adoption support services and the impact of recent national changes to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund. Members were advised that reductions in available funding and changes to

assessment arrangements had created challenges for some adoptive families and had the potential to affect access to therapeutic support. ATV continued to work with families to mitigate the impact of these changes and provide support through its local offer.

Members heard that ATV was developing a multidisciplinary approach to adoption support, with a particular focus on trauma-informed assessment, evidence-based interventions and strengthening support available to adopters following placement.

The Board noted that recruitment activity remained focused on securing sufficient adopters for children with more complex needs, including older children, sibling groups and children requiring ongoing family contact arrangements.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

**CPB
/25**

Family Placement Services – Performance Overview

The Board considered a report outlining performance of the Family Placement Service between 1 April 2025 and 31 December 2025.

Members noted that statutory compliance remained strong, including foster carer reviews, unannounced visits and safeguarding requirements. However, significant pressures continued to affect the service, particularly around foster carer sufficiency, workforce capacity and increasing demand for connected and kinship care assessments.

The Board heard that:

- Nineteen fostering enquiries had been received during the reporting period, with six progressing to assessment.
- Three new mainstream foster carers had been approved.
- Thirteen foster carers had retired or resigned.
- Demand for connected and kinship care assessments had increased significantly.
- Nineteen children had achieved permanence through Special Guardianship Orders.
- One hundred and three children were currently in matched long-term foster placements.
- Work continued to identify suitable placements for children awaiting long-term matches.

Members discussed the challenges associated with recruiting foster carers, particularly for larger sibling groups, older children and young people stepping down from residential care.

The Board discussed the Council's fostering offer and an update on recent revisions, including additional fostering levels, enhanced training, therapeutic support and an annual appreciation payment for foster carers. Members were advised that the revised offer aimed to improve recruitment, retention and placement stability. Members were informed that whilst fostering remained the preferred option for many children some children had needs which were best

met through residential provision and the placement decisions were made on an individual basis.

Discussion took place regarding aspirations for the Council's residential provision and members felt assured that there was a continuing focus on maintaining high standards and securing the best possible outcomes for children and young people

Discussion also took place regarding:

- Recruitment activity and barriers preventing prospective carers progressing through the assessment process.
- The use of individual profiling and targeted recruitment campaigns.
- The importance of maintaining high quality support for foster carers.
- Kinship care developments and enhanced support arrangements.
- Residential care, permanence planning and step-down arrangements.
- The future direction of fostering services following recent national reviews.

Members welcomed the positive impact of the Mockingbird model, the Foster Carer Conference and ongoing partnership work with Foster with North East.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The continued work to improve foster carer recruitment, retention and placement sufficiency be supported.
3. Further updates be provided to future meetings of the Board.

CPB /25 **Building on Progress**

The Board considered a report outlining proposals to strengthen the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Chair highlighted the significant progress made in recent years, including the introduction of young people-led meetings and increased participation by children and young people with lived experience.

Members were advised that an assessment of the Board's arrangements had identified opportunities to further strengthen:

- Strategic oversight.
- Partner accountability.
- Performance reporting.
- Co-production with children and young people.
- Delivery against the Corporate Parenting Commitments.

The Board discussed proposals to establish themed sub-groups linked to strategic priorities, improve feedback arrangements between young people-led meetings and business meetings, and introduce enhanced performance reporting.

Discussion also took place regarding Board membership, partner attendance and meeting arrangements. Concerns were expressed regarding recurring clashes with other regional meetings which affected attendance by key partners and senior officers.

Members supported the principle of undertaking a facilitated development session to review the Board's future direction, governance arrangements and membership.

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. Endorse the proposals to strengthen the Board's focus, structure and ways of working.
2. Agree to the delivery of a facilitated development session.
3. Support the continued use of alternating business-focused and young people-led meetings.
4. Support the development of themed strategic priority sub-groups.
5. Agree that feedback regarding future meeting arrangements be gathered from Members and partners.

**CPB
/25**

No Limits Hub Update

The Board received a verbal update regarding developments within the No Limits Hub.

Members were advised of ongoing improvements to facilities within the Hub, including the development of dedicated creative and media spaces. Work was also underway to expand opportunities available to care experienced young people through a range of educational, employment, creative and wellbeing activities.

The Board welcomed:

- Development of podcast and media facilities.
- Additional therapeutic and wellbeing activities.
- Continued support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.
- Positive outcomes being achieved through the Trailblazer programme.
- Preparations for the forthcoming Children in Care Awards.

Recognition was given to staff and partners supporting care experienced young people into education, employment and training opportunities.

Members welcomed the continued success of the No Limits Hub and the positive impact being achieved for children and young people.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

**CPB/
25 Forward Plan**

Members discussed and agreed the Forward Plan.

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FOSTERING FRIENDLY

A request for our corporate parents

12 June 2026



THE CURRENT SITUATION IN STOCKTON

Year	Approved foster carers	Approved Supported Lodgings Hosts	Number of mainstream foster carers at 31st March	Number of kinship foster carers at 31st March	Resignations of mainstream foster carers
2020/21	43 (13 of those mainstream)	N/A	103	74	15
2021/22	21 (3 of those mainstream)	N/A	91	75	14
2022/23	27 (6 of those mainstream)	N/A	88	74	10
2023/24	30 (6 of those mainstream)	2	85	75	12
2024/25	38 (7 of those mainstream)	0	81	87	9
25/26 to date	44 (4 of those mainstream + 2 conversions)	1	71	91	14

STATISTICS IN STOCKTON

618

Children in our care in Stockton-on-Tees

208

Kinship (family & friend) foster carers

113

SBC mainstream foster carers

105

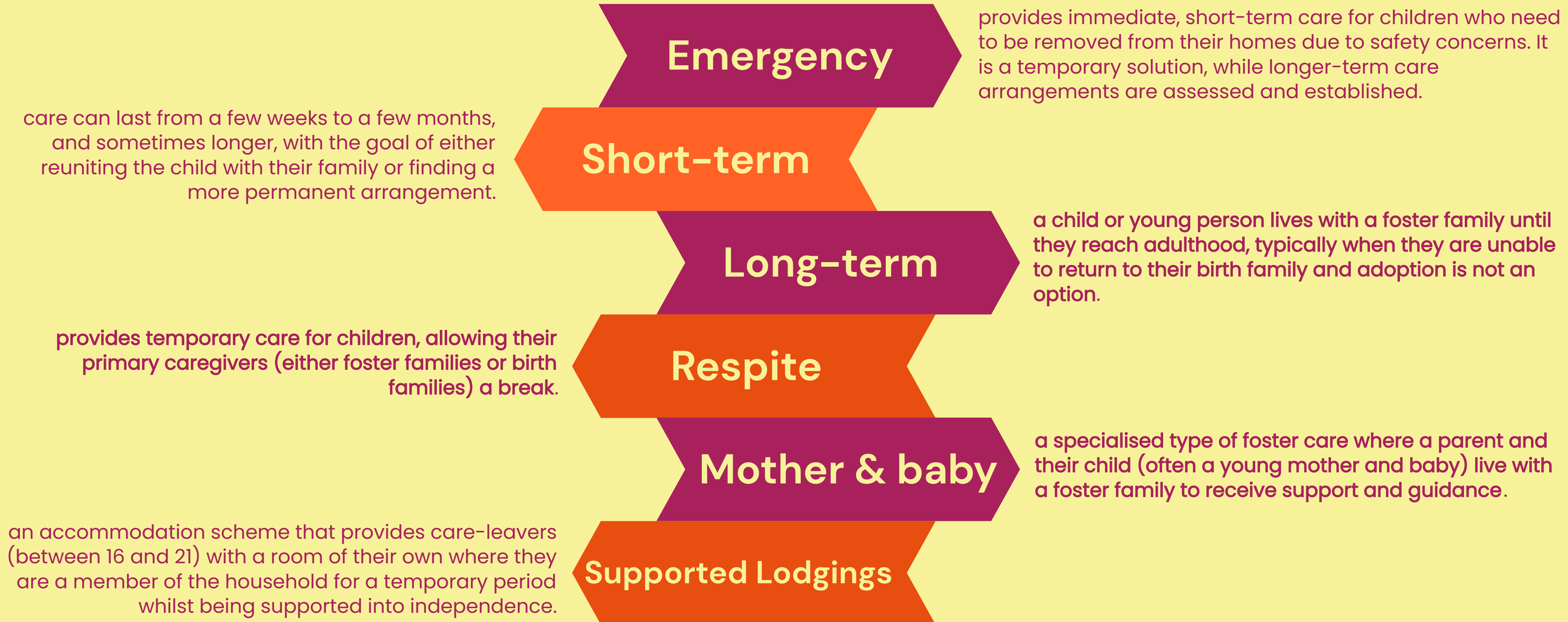
IFA foster carers

78

Children's homes



FOSTERING IS FLEXIBLE



(yes you)

Be there for me

YOU CAN BE SOMEONE'S ROCK

You can change a child's life. Be their safe place, their home, their care and support, and we'll be yours.

Foster a child with your local council.

fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foster with NORTH EAST

(yes you)

Be there for me when I need help

YOU CAN BE SOMEONE'S ROCK

You can change a child's life. Be their safe place, their home, their care and support, and we'll be yours.

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fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foster with NORTH EAST

Be there for us

YOU CAN BE SOMEONE'S ROCK

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Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foster with NORTH EAST

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

- Foster with North East lead on regional activity which includes, radio, digital, social media, cinema advertising, outdoor inc. bus backs and rail stations and targeted mixed media most recently in schools and hospitals.
- Refer a friend scheme.



LOCAL ACTIVITY

- The fostering team deliver local activity with a limited budget, which includes internal and external events, advertising board/ digital screens, email footers, Stockton Town Football Club sponsorship, 'MyCouncil' e-newsletter.



RECRUITMENT EVENTS

- Monthly online fostering information sessions
- Attendance at community events, libraries, leisure centres etc.
- Stand at Teesside Expo in September
 - (The regions premier networking event that is attended by 100's of local businesses.)



We are a Fostering Friendly employer

**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network

Supporting foster carer
colleagues and children
in our community.



#FosteringFriendly



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FOSTERING FRIENDLY SCHEME

The Fostering Friendly Scheme is simple, free and open to organisations of any size. Managed by the Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity, it helps employers support staff who foster and raise awareness of foster care within their workplace. By joining, employers commit to:

- A flexible working approach for foster carers
- A minimum of five days' paid leave for employees who foster or who are preparing to foster.



WHY BECOME A FOSTERING FRIENDLY ORGANISATION?



- Demonstrate your commitment to staff wellbeing and your local community
- Better understand and support employees who foster
- Attract and retain skilled, resilient and committed staff
- Inspire your workforce through awareness raising events and activities
- Benefit from expert guidance from the Fostering Network

CURRENT FOSTERING FRIENDLY EMPLOYERS

266 in total, including:

- Alton Towers Resort
- Anglian Water
- Aspire Housing
- B&Q
- bet365
- John Lewis Partnership
- Santander
- Screwfix
- Stagecoach
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust





Become a Fostering Friendly Employer

Make a difference in Stockton-on-Tees

Children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees urgently need more foster carers. With over 70,000 children living with foster families across the UK and numbers continuing to rise, a child comes into care every 20 minutes.

Local businesses can play a powerful role in helping children stay connected to the people and places that matter most.

Foster with NORTH EAST

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

By becoming a **Fostering Friendly employer**, your organisation can take meaningful action to support foster carers in your workforce—now and in the future.

What is the Fostering Friendly Employer Scheme?

The Fostering Friendly scheme is **simple, free and open to organisations of any size**. Managed by The Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity, it helps employers support staff who foster and raise awareness of foster care within their workplace.

By joining, you commit to offering:

- A **flexible working approach** for foster carers
- A **minimum of five days' paid leave** for employees who foster or who are preparing to foster

The Fostering Network provides all the templates, guidance and support you need—including help to celebrate **Foster Care Fortnight™**, the UK's biggest fostering awareness campaign.



Why Become a Fostering Friendly Organisation?

By joining the scheme, your business can:

- Demonstrate your commitment to staff wellbeing and your local community
- Better understand and support employees who foster
- Attract and retain skilled, resilient and committed staff
- Play a vital role in helping recruit and support local foster carers
- Inspire your workforce through awareness raising events and activities
- Benefit from expert guidance from The Fostering Network
- Join the national celebration of foster care and the amazing stories behind it

Being **fostering-friendly** is about **championing foster families, raising awareness and helping more local children find the stability they deserve.**



Current Fostering Friendly Employers

You can view the list of national Fostering Friendly employers by scanning this QR code:



Taking small steps to become foster-aware can have a huge impact on the children and families in our community.

How It Works

- We provide an example policy and support you in developing your own
- The Fostering Network reviews and approves your policy (usually within one week)
- Your new status is celebrated and promoted nationally
- We support you to get involved in Foster Care Fortnight™
- We help engage, inform and inspire your staff with fostering information and resources

Not Ready to Become Fostering Friendly?

There are still many simple ways your business can help support local children and foster carers:

- Display posters or leaflets in staff areas
- Host an online or in-person fostering information session for your employees
- Share a fostering story in your internal newsletter or on your social media channels
- Donate a gift for children in the care of Stockton Borough Council

Ready to Join a Fostering Friendly Community?

For an initial chat or more information, please contact:

Coral Pape
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Fostering Team
coral.pape@stockton.gov.uk
01642 524223

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer with your local council, start your journey by visiting www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk or calling the friendly team on 0800 917 7771.

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foster with NORTH EAST

HOW CAN CORPORATE PARENTS HELP?

- Use your workforce as an audience
- Actively champion fostering as a positive choice
- Partner with us
- Become fostering friendly!

What you can do today:

- Take some leaflets
- Spread the word with your business contacts
- Attend our upcoming breakfast meeting (date TBC)
- Like our Facebook page and share our posts with your audiences:
 - *Stockton-on-Tees Fostering and Supported Lodgings*

Together we can **make a difference!**



CONTACT DETAILS

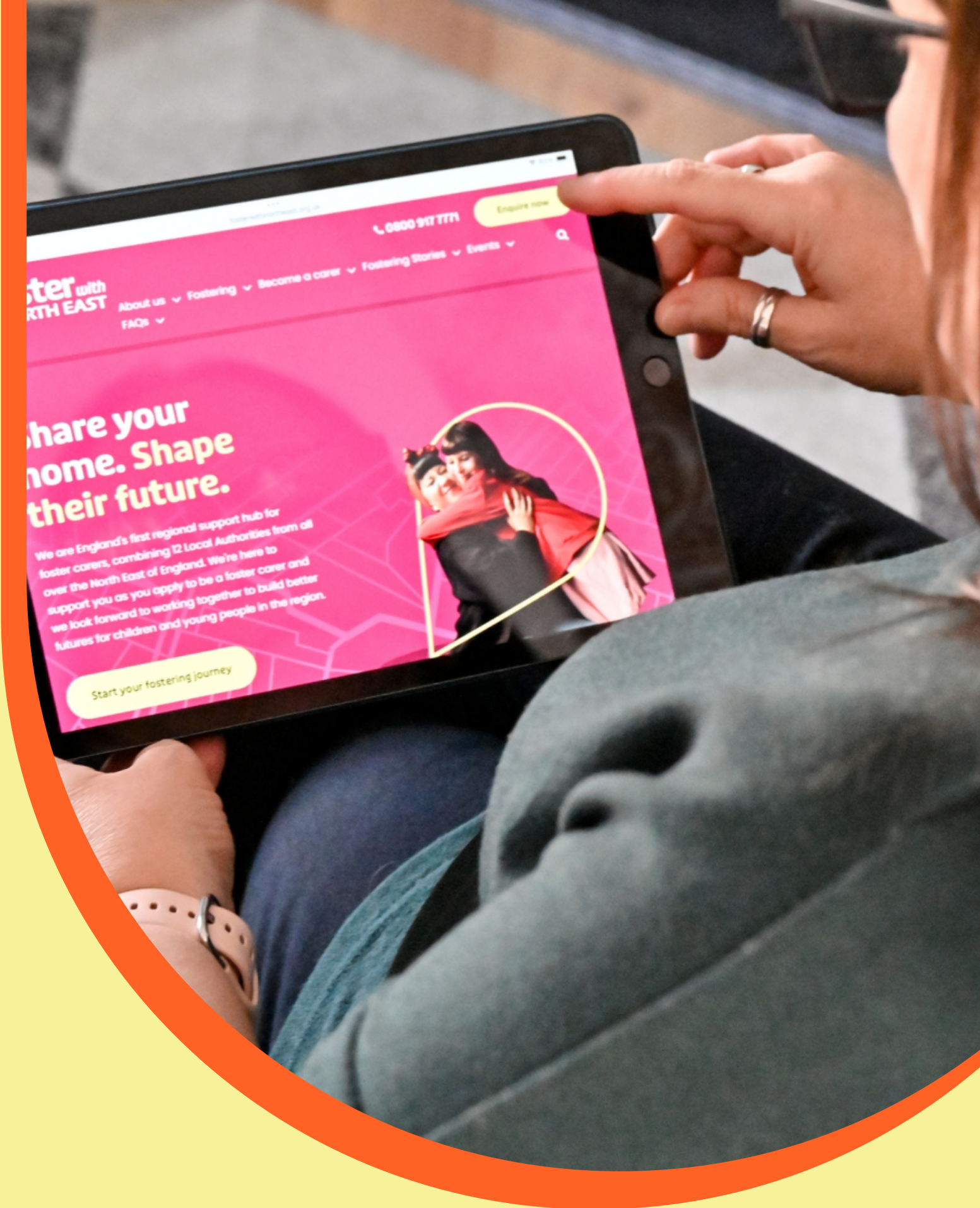
coral.pape@stockton.gov.uk

laura.fenwick@stockton.gov.uk

www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/get-involved/fostering-friendly-employers/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SoTfosteringandsupportedlodgings/>





Corporate Parenting Board

Forward Plan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
13 July 2026 6.00pm	No Limits Hub Meeting
14 August 2026 10.00am	Virtual School Update (Janet Wilson) Overview of Transitions Team Role (Jane Smith) Virtual Memory Box (Debbie Farrow) Adoption Tees Valley – (Louise Addison)
24 th September 2026 6.00pm	No Limits Hub Meeting
9 th October 2026 10.00am	
19 November 2026 6.00pm	No Limits Hub Meeting
11 December 2026 10.00am	Virtual School Update (Janet Wilson)
27 January 2027 6.00pm	No Limits Hub Meeting
12 February 2027 10.00am	Adoption Tees Valley – (Louise Addison)
18 March 2027 6.00pm	No Limits Hub Meeting

Standing Items:

- Adoption Tees Valley – **(Louise Addison)** (Usually February and August each Year)
- Corporate Parenting Performance Update (To be determined)
- Virtual School Update **(Janet Wilson)** (Usually June and December each year)
- Lifelong Links Programme **(Kellie Wigley)** (as required)

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