



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

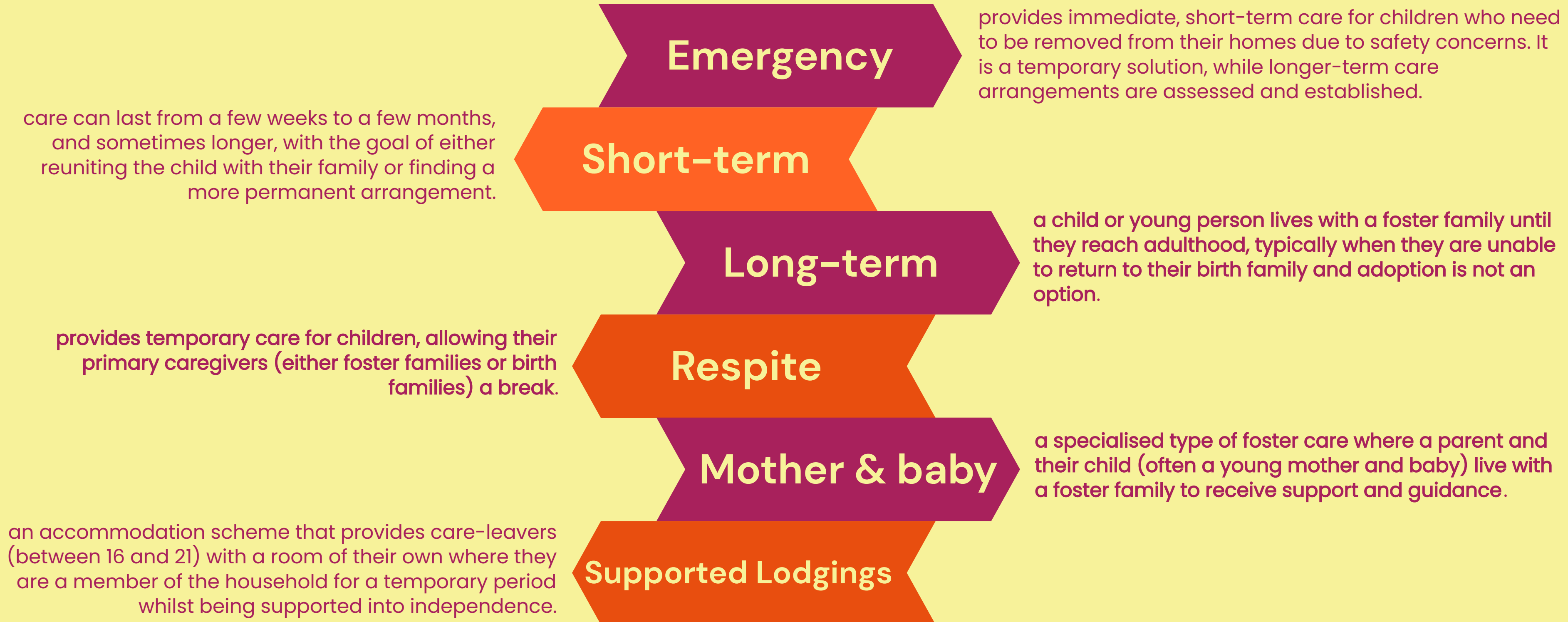
IFA foster carers

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

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Be there for us

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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

A photograph of four young children, two girls and two boys, walking away from the camera on a large, green grassy field. They are holding hands in a line. The child on the far left is a boy in a blue shirt and purple shorts. The second child is a girl in a pink dress. The third child is a girl in a white t-shirt and pink checkered shorts. The child on the far right is a boy in a light blue shirt and pink shorts. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network

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.

**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network

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:



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

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

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

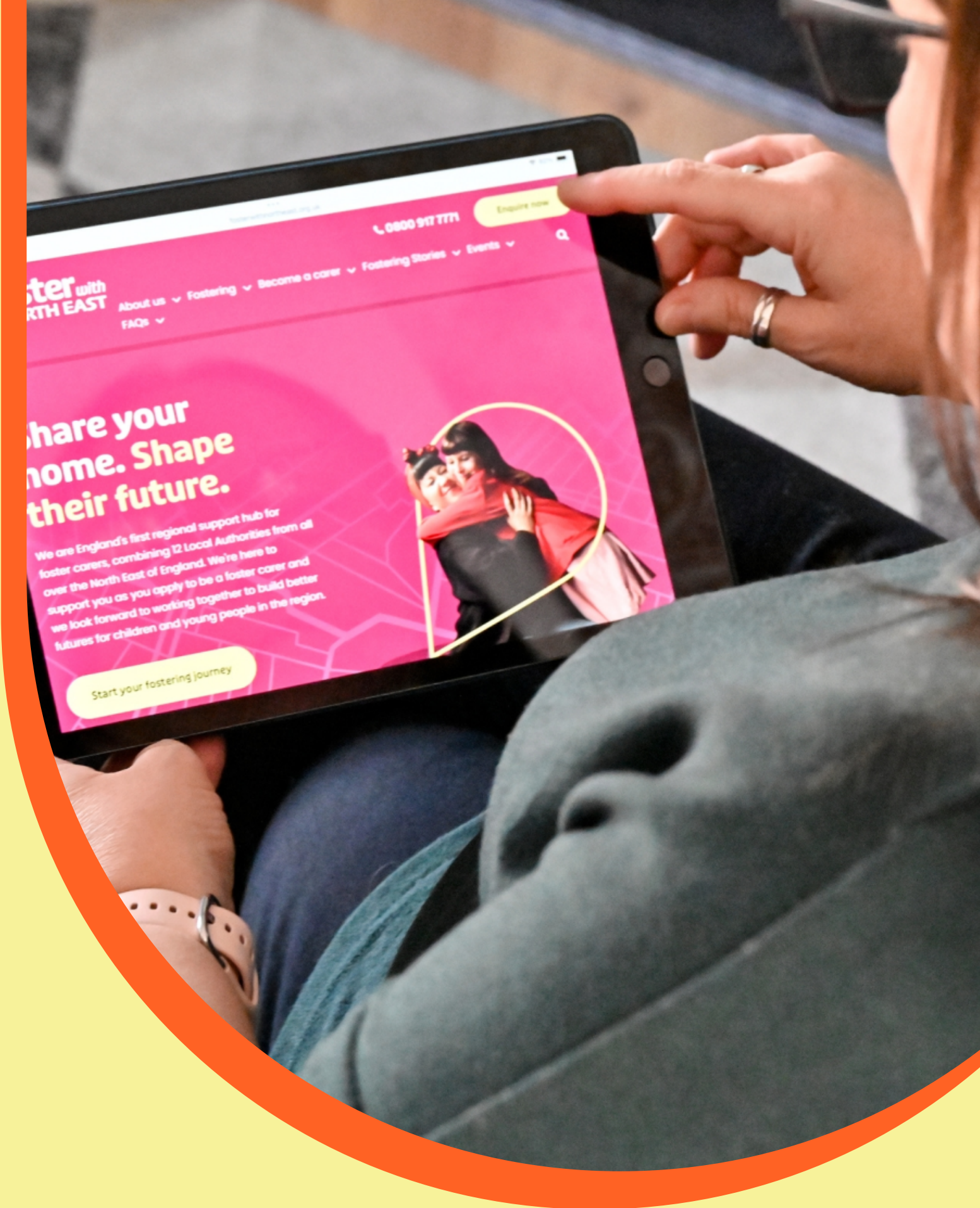
coral.pape@stockton.gov.uk

laura.fenwick@stockton.gov.uk

www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

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

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





**ANY
QUESTIONS?**