

Fostering General Information

JMT Fostering welcomes applications from single people and couples, irrespective of race, culture, religious beliefs and sexual orientation; if you are married or in a cohabiting or civil partnership then you will both be assessed as foster carers. If you have children, it is important that they, too, are happy to be part of a 'fostering family'. Children placed with you by JMT will need a bedroom of their own.

Our carers accommodate and support children and young people who are referred to us by local authorities throughout Scotland. Each child is unique and is likely to have had a range of life experiences that have resulted in emotional and/or behaviour challenges. They may also have a specific learning or physical disability. In order that a child's needs may be fully met, we regard fostering as a professional task and, as such, an alternative to full-time employment for a single carer, or for one partner in the case of a couple. A competitive foster carer fee is paid, together with an individual living allowance for each child placed.

To become a foster carer with JMT Fostering, you need to be over 25 years of age (21 years if you wish to provide respite care for a child or young person looked after by a JMT foster carer, and already known to you). There is no upper age restriction.

Providing a home for vulnerable young people can be intensely rewarding yet, at times, extremely challenging. There is a responsibility on us as an agency to recruit carers who hold the appropriate values and attitudes that underpin safe care and provide a warm and nurturing environment. As part of the application process, we will carry out a PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) for regulated work with Children and/or Protected Adults, local authority checks, and you will be required to have a medical conducted by your own GP.

References will also be requested from personal referees, people who have knowledge of your actual or potential parenting skills, and your employer or ex-employer if appropriate. If you are already a foster carer for another agency or local authority, you will have to let them know if you decide to apply to JMT Fostering, but we shall advise you when it is necessary to do this.

A full assessment will be carried out by a JMT Fostering social worker, who will meet with you on a regular basis. This assessment will include taking a full personal history and will give you an opportunity to explore the many issues that can arise when looking after other people's children. At some visits, your social worker may be accompanied by another social worker from JMT Fostering and you will be informed of this in advance. We aim to complete all assessments within six months of receiving an application, although there may be times when this may take a little longer.

Deciding to become a foster carer is a big decision and you are free to withdraw your application at any time during the assessment period if you believe that fostering may not be right for you.

Once all the checks have been satisfactorily carried out and the assessment report completed, your application will be presented to JMT Fostering Panel for consideration. You will be invited to attend this meeting along with your social worker. The Panel will then make a recommendation to the agency decision-maker for approval. This must be done within 14 days of the Panel meeting, and the agency decision-maker has to make his or her final decision within 7 days of receiving the Panel's recommendation. You will then be notified in writing of the final decision within 7 days.