



Could you offer
'Time Out Fostering' and help
a child in lockdown crisis?

Be a part of our **caring community**



What is 'Time Out Fostering'?

Lockdown has proved a difficult time for many families, with financial problems, school closures and living in a confined space for long periods putting pressure on both parents and children. In some cases, there's a real risk that family relationships will break down permanently.

BCP Council has recently launched a new initiative in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area to help families, and are asking for local people to 'come forward and make a big difference' by offering Time Out fostering placements for short-term limited placements for children and young people of all ages. During this time, you will be working alongside birth families and the wider fostering team to help rebuild relationships and support the child to return home.

This would suit individuals and couples from all walks of life who have time and space in their home and would like to play a key part in keeping a family together. The role also comes with a £250 weekly fee and an allowance for the child.

In turn, you will be assessed like any other foster carer and given all the expert support you need. After undergoing safeguarding checks, carers on this scheme will receive training and work closely with the Child Care Social Workers and the wider Child in Need Team. That said, the most important 'qualifications' you can bring to this role are patience, understanding and experience with children!

Could you be a 'Time Out Carer' for children?

We need carers who have the time and space in their lives for these children, to support high levels of contact with the child's family and be part of the reparative work. That gives us the opportunity to help the family develop strategies that enable better communication and tools to manage in times of stress.

Do you think you could help a child rebuild those vital relationships and return home safely? If so, please call us on **0800 009 3084** or visit **bcpcouncil.gov.uk/fostering** and fill in an enquiry form.



Dylan is the sort of child that we are looking to support before returning him to his family. He is 13 years old and lives with his mum and stepdad. He has one stepbrother 16 and three younger half siblings, aged 10, five and one.

Inevitably within a larger, extended family unit like this, there's a range of issues to deal with and some competing priorities, and that has meant Dylan hasn't always had the attention he needs at an important stage in his life - and at what is a difficult time for all children.

In particular, one of his younger siblings has additional health needs, and so much of Dylan's parents' time has been spent supporting him and taking him to medical appointments. On top of that, Dylan's stepdad lost his job during the first lockdown and started to drink heavily.

His mother spends a lot of her time in bed and crying and there have been more rows in the home.

It doesn't help that Dylan has always felt different from his family. He has no contact with his birth father and, while his siblings have no problems academically, he himself struggles at school. He feels angry but doesn't feel he can talk about his feelings. He has started to get into trouble at school; and, while this has meant that his parents have shown him more attention, it has inevitably resulted in more arguments.

He tells his mum and stepdad that he does not want to live with them, but inside he is a very frightened boy and just wants things to go back to where they were before. Importantly, his mother and stepdad feel they have reached 'the end' too. To get out of this damaging cycle, what Dylan needs right now is some 'time out' with someone he can talk to if needed, but will also give him some space to just to be himself.

There are no other family members for him to stay with, and going into a care setting would not be ideal, so it's for children like Dylan that we have set up this new type of foster caring.



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