

Outstanding Outcomes for Children and Young People

Hertfordshire County Council's provides a child-focused fostering service ensuring excellent outcomes for children and young people, according to a recent independent inspection carried out by Ofsted.

Inspectors, who visited the Hertfordshire County Council's Fostering Service last month, judged the service to be 'good' with outstanding outcomes for children and young people.

The report highlights include:

- Foster carers speak very highly of the supervision, support and training they receive to equip them to provide such positive placements for children and young people.
- There is careful matching and thorough planning in preparation for a placement. This ensures that children and young people are placed with carers who can meet their needs very well.
- Effective arrangements are used to recruit and retain good quality carers who can meet a diverse range of children and young people's needs.
- Staff are extremely able and are focused on ensuring that children and young people have excellent outcomes.
- Children and young people are included and supported exceptionally well to give their views, wishes and feelings about their care.

The report also included two recommendations for improvement:

- ensure that panel minutes include the reasons for recommendations made
- ensure entries in records, decisions and reasons for them, are legible and clearly expressed

Lead member for Children's Services, Councillor Richard Roberts, said: "I am very encouraged with this Ofsted inspection that recognises the value of foster carers in looking after children in our care and the support they receive from the Hertfordshire Fostering service. Great carers, great support, this gives children the best chance in life."

"Improvements can still be made and we will take on board the recommendations."

"We are pleased that the report shows that our foster carers and fostering staff are ensuring that our children and young people have the very best chance to reach their full potential.

"The inspection report also shows that Hertfordshire provides the very best training and support for its carers, and as a result, carers feel valued in their role. We are pleased that our recruitment efforts are being recognised as we really do need more foster carers for children and young people across Hertfordshire and are urging people to get in touch to find out more.

"We are adopting new and innovative ways to recruit more carers to ensure that we can provide the very best matches for our children."

Fostering is your opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of local children and young people. If you would like a new challenge and want to join our excellent team of carers, please call **0800 917 0925** or visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering for more information.

To read the full inspection report, visit www.ofsted.gov.uk