

FAILING THE 11+

All enquiries to foster children who are in South Gloucestershire Council's care are very gratefully appreciated, but the age group that is always in need of the most carers is young people who are aged 11+.

There is a national shortage of people coming forward to care for older children and young people. Often when people enquire about fostering they will only be looking to care for children at the younger end of the age spectrum. This can be for a variety of reasons but they may just not have considered the idea of offering their home to someone a little bit older.

Most young people in this age group will have gone past the age where they can be adopted. Our young people really need stability in their home lives to enable them to concentrate on their schooling to gain qualifications to stand them in good stead in the outside world. So, we are particularly looking for people who have the time, energy (and room) to devote to a young person who needs to feel at home for as long as their individual plan recommends.

“Foster carers are really important at this stage of life”



We know that people do not get involved with fostering for financial reasons but we are fully appreciative of the fact that it is a very challenging thing to do and that those who do should be well compensated. Approved foster carers taking on a young person would get a basic weekly fee, added to which would be a weekly Age Related Allowance (ARA) depending on the age of young person placed. Additional payments are also made for birthdays, Christmas and holidays.

In addition to getting these payments, foster carers also receive ongoing support from the foster care team and training to help develop their knowledge and understanding of children and young people.

If you think you are ready for the challenge of making a difference to a young person's life – and helping them get through a very important time in their lives – please contact me, Tony Bray, on **01454 866423** for a general chat and/or to receive an Information Booklet.

Tony Bray
Recruitment & Marketing Officer
Family Placement Team
South Gloucestershire Council
www.southglos.gov.uk/fostering