

# Who are the children?

Children and young people who are looked after by foster carers, have complex histories. They come into our care for a variety of reasons, and may have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Most children will have experienced early adversity and may display a range of behaviours that do not make it easy for them to fit into a family initially.

There is no such thing as a typical fostering situation and caring for a child or children could last anything from a few days to several years. A child may need to be looked after away from home for any number of reasons; quite often it is because the birth parents are not able to care for their child, possibly due to mental health problems or the misuse of drugs or alcohol. Sometimes parents do not know how to provide a child with a safe, caring environment as a result the child may have suffered abuse.

Sometimes a child might come to the attention of Worcestershire County Council following an order of the court. Or it could be because the family just needs some extra support to get them through a difficult time.

The children need an enormous amount of commitment, nurturing and attention to help them recover from their early life experiences, to feel secure and to learn to trust again. At different developmental milestones and during life changes some of these early life experiences will be triggered and the children will need support.

We are not pretending that it is an easy task. Our children are special and come from diverse backgrounds with different life experiences, we need families from different ethnic backgrounds and people who have a range of experience. We need foster carers and adopters who



reflect the ethnicity of our children, currently 91.3% of Worcestershire County Council's children who need to be fostered or adopted are White British. 8.7% are Black or from a minority ethnic groups, usually of a mixed background, White and Black Caribbean or of White and Asian ethnicity.

You will be part of a team of people around the child. We will be alongside you, preparing, training and supporting you - helping you, help them.

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