





Celebrating and rewarding Knowsley foster carers for their commitment and hard work in providing a brighter future for our children.

Knowsley Council are committed to providing the best outcomes for our children looked after, ensuring they are only placed with high quality foster carers. We understand the importance of the support we offer to our foster carers, and appreciate the continuous care and love they give to our children every day. This is why we want to ensure all Knowsley foster carers feel supported and appreciated in order to fulfil their role.

We are delighted to offer an exciting new benefit package which we have created to show our foster carers how valued they are and invest in their professional development with us.

The new package is called the Knowsley Fostering Deal, and has been designed to benefit all foster carers. So whether you are new to fostering or are an experienced

foster carer, the new 'Deal' will offer support, benefits and training to help you provide the highest level of care to our children and young people.

We have worked closely with foster carers to shape this offer providing an opportunity to develop the role through training, mentoring, and involvement in local support groups, recruiting other foster carers and developing a host of skills that enhance the expertise of all Knowsley foster carers.

We recognise that being a foster carer means no two days are the same and they can face many challenges. The Fostering Deal also outlines ways in which we view foster carers health and wellbeing is a priority for us as a service and how we aim to look after our carers, their families and our children in their care.



What is it?

Knowsley Better Together brings people and organisations together for the benefit of Knowsley and its residents. More can be achieved by pooling resources, expertise and ideas.

The Knowsley 'Fostering Deal' sets out what the Council will do to support foster carers in their role, whilst also detailing what foster carers will be expected to do in continuing to provide a high level care to our children looked after.

Benefits and Opportunities



As a not for profit Local Authority Fostering Service we work closely with our partners to ensure we can offer competitive benefits and opportunities that all foster carers can enjoy.

Max Card

All Knowsley Fostering Families will receive a Max Card. Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission. The scheme is designed to help fostering families save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling alleys, trampoline parks and many more. This allows fostering families to make memories together through stimulating learning experiences and enjoyable days out for everyone.

Training Opportunities

We are committed to the ongoing training, support and development of our foster carers. Alongside our extensive training

programme which includes over 150 courses, foster carers will also have the opportunity to complete a QCF level 3 Childhood Studies and QCF level 3 in Childhood In Education.

Recommend a Friend

We recognise the importance of foster carers recommending Knowsley Fostering Service to their friends and family and will pay carers who recommend someone who gets approval £500. This will be paid in two equal instalments at the point the new foster carer is approved and then six months after they have had a child in placement.

Discounted Leisure Membership

All children looked after in Knowsley are entitled to a free Volair leisure pass. This pass also allows foster carers to access the centres for free when accompanying the child (up to the age of 12). Additionally,

foster carers are also eligible for the Knowsley 'Leisure Passport' at a cost to them of £7.00. The Passport offers 40% discount on Volair Silver memberships.

Long Service Awards Scheme

In order to recognise the loyalty and commitment to fostering for Knowsley, foster carers will receive long service awards at 5 years and 10 years' service in order to mark the occasion. The awards will be accompanied with a gift of either an annual family pass for Knowsley Safari Park, spa break or something similar of the foster carer's preference.

Annual Celebration

To thank our foster carers for their continuous hard work and commitment to our children, we host an annual celebration event which is decided by foster carers. This could be a festive afternoon tea', a fun day or evening celebration.

Priority Housing with Property Pool

Additional priority on the housing register, irrespective of whether it is a short or long term placement is available to all Knowsley Foster Carers.

Exclusive Benefits and Discounts

As a Knowsley Foster Carer you can access a range of exclusive benefits and discounts for high street shops, savings schemes and discounted products with the Knowsley Council's KAARP scheme. With KAARP you can save on practically everything from days out, shopping.





Support Package



Knowsley Fostering Service offers all foster carers comprehensive support including a Supervising Social Worker, a Duty Social Worker and out of hours support. As a small authority we pride ourselves on knowing our foster carers personally and carers can be reassured that they are receiving a high level of support from a team that knows them and the children they care for

Specialist Support Groups

Foster carers need time to spend together and receive support and advice when needed. Within the regular monthly support group we will now offer opportunities to concentrate on the health and wellbeing of our foster carers. With activities taking place including mindfulness, flower arranging, massage and Bingo.

Alongside the monthly foster carer support group, we also organise:

- Friends and Family Foster Carer Support Group

- Sons and Daughters of Foster Carers Activity Group
- Men who Foster

Out of Hours Support

We provide 24/7 support thanks to our dedicated team of social workers. Unlike many other agencies, Knowsley's out of hours support is delivered by Knowsley Social Workers. Which means that when you call us out of hours, the person you speak to will most likely know you and the children in your care.

Peer Mentoring Scheme

Knowsley's peer mentoring scheme has been developed to provide one-to-one support to newly approved foster carers, or to foster carers when placements become challenging. This extra support is delivered by a more experienced foster carer (the mentor) and offers non-judgemental support from a position of understanding as foster carers themselves.'

Foster Carer Hub

The Knowsley 'Foster Carer Hub' and is a locked area of the Foster for Knowsley website designed exclusively for foster carers. Access to policies and procedures, contact information for the fostering teams and payments team can be found there along with news and events taking place. There is also the facility to view and book onto all fostering carer training courses and view any courses already attended.

Additional Leave for Knowsley Council Employed Staff

Knowsley Council are a fostering friendly employee and offer employees additional leave to fulfil their role as a foster carer for Knowsley.



Support Service

Foster carers can access some of the support services provided by Knowsley Council to support you through any of life's issues or problems. These include - therapy support services, including access to counselling and talking therapies; physical treatment services, including physiotherapy and podiatry; and finally routine vaccinations, including flu and hepatitis B.

Independent Fostering Agency Carers who wish to transfer to Knowsley

If you have a child or young person already placed with you we will work with you and your agency under a nationally agreed protocol to transfer your approval to Knowsley. This will ensure any children in your care are at the heart of the process and their needs addressed. We recognise the excellent care many independent foster carers provide to Knowsley children and will 'match' the financial packages currently

offered by Independent Fostering Agencies to those foster carers who have our children and young people in placement. If you don't have a child in placement with you then simply need to inform your current fostering service in writing that you are considering a move to another fostering service. It is ok for you to speak with us before you do this and we can come and visit you at home too.





What we will do

- ♥ To celebrate and reward your commitment and dedication to our children
- ♥ To provide inclusive support and advice, 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- ♥ To recognise you as part of the team who work with our children and respect your professionalism
- ♥ To provide a wide range of training opportunities which will be locally based, and will contribute to your professional development
- ♥ To offer a range of incentives, including access to activities that will help you provide lasting memories for our children

What you can do

- ♥ Provide a safe, secure and loving home for Knowsley children and young people
- ♥ Respect and nurture every child placed with you and encourage them to achieve their full potential
- ♥ Provide activities that will have a significant impact on the all-round development of the child
- ♥ Work effectively with others as part of the team around the child
- ♥ Attend both mandatory training and commissioned training courses to enable you to develop skills and keep up to date with new legislation





For full details about The Fostering Deal for foster carers visit: [https://fostering.knowsley.gov.uk/
FosteringDeal](https://fostering.knowsley.gov.uk/FosteringDeal) or contact our friendly team
on 0151 443 3958

