

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Teenagers need fostering too

The search is on for more foster carers in East Sussex with two events aimed at encouraging local people to think about fostering young people aged between 11 and 17 years old.

The 'Fostering Evenings' - one in Newhaven on 18 November and another in Eastbourne on 24 November - have been organised by East Sussex County Council's Fostering Service which was recently rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted inspectors.

These informal events are for anyone who has any questions about fostering or who is considering becoming a foster carer to teenagers. Visitors will have the chance to speak first hand to foster carers about their experiences as well as staff from the council's fostering service.

Lyn Kemp from Bexhill is one such carer who has fostered teenagers, and who will be attending the event at Eastbourne. Lyn said: "We love the challenges of fostering. We fostered a girl, a teenager who had lots of problems, and over time we managed to help her overcome all of these and her life was almost completely turned around. It made her feel good about herself and we felt proud we had managed to help her."

Councillor Meg Stroude, Lead Cabinet Member for Children & Families, said: "Our foster carers do an absolutely brilliant job looking after children who need love and a

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home. They have a vital role in giving children and young people the opportunities they need to achieve and enjoy their lives.”

“I would encourage anyone who has ever thought about fostering to come along to one of these events. They will be extremely informal and they’ll be able to get a range of information from our staff about what is involved, including the training and support they would receive, and also from foster carers themselves.”

The Fostering Teenagers Information Evenings will be from 7 - 8.30pm. The event in Newhaven, on Tuesday 18 November, takes place at The Hillcrest Centre, Hillcrest Road (BN9 9AE). The Eastbourne event, on Monday 24 November, will be at the Chatsworth Hotel, Grand Parade (between the pier and bandstand).

More information about fostering is available on 01323 747499 (24 hr answer phone) or by visiting www.eastsussex.gov.uk/fostering.

ENDS

Notes for editors

Earlier this year, the Council’s Cabinet received a report which showed another successful year for the council in its role as a ‘corporate parent’, looking after children in care, including an ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted grading for its Fostering Service. The Council is currently responsible, as corporate parent, for 439 looked after children and young people, the majority of whom are placed with foster carers.

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