

1,000 children in care. Be a foster carer with us.

Northamptonshire County Council has launched a new fostering campaign called '1000 Pairs of Shoes' to find loving, stable homes for some of the 1,000 children in care in Northamptonshire.

As part of the campaign, a new video has been created to raise awareness and share the message that if people are interested in fostering and could offer a child a very fresh start, they should get in touch and start their fostering story.

The video features an emotive poem written by Steph who experienced time in foster care as she was growing up. It is being shared through our social media channels and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/vwK7bl9KSsE> If you use social media, please look out for the video and share it to help us spread the message far and wide.

Sharing stories

Throughout the four week campaign, foster carers are sharing their experiences of caring for vulnerable children and young people in the hope of encouraging more people to find out about fostering.

Foster carer Paul Martin, from Northampton, said: "As a foster family we have looked after over 25 children in nine years. Our journey has taken us to places we thought we would never go.

"Our experiences have enriched our lives and those of the children we have cared for. We have found fostering both challenging and rewarding, but being able to make a difference in a child's life at a time of crisis is why we continue to do what we do."

Display of shoes

Foster carers and members of the council's fostering team are holding events in the Grosvenor Centre in Northampton this week, where there will also be a display of children's shoes spelling out '1,000' created by Paul to represent the 1,000 children currently in care in Northamptonshire.

Photo A

A rewarding and life changing experience

County council deputy leader and cabinet member for children's services Cllr Matthew Golby said:

"Our foster carers tell us that welcoming a child or young person into their home is one of the most life-changing and rewarding things they've ever done.

"There are currently more than 1,000 vulnerable children and young people in Northamptonshire and many of them could benefit from a stable loving home, where they can learn, grow and progress.

"We are looking for people who have the time and living situation to foster a child or young person, who are physically and mentally fit, and who above all want to make a difference."

Northamptonshire County Council offers a full training and support package for its foster carers, and carers receive a competitive weekly payment which is higher than the government recommended rates.

Find out more

To find out more, come along to an information event at Caroline Chisholm School in Wootton Fields, Northampton, on Thursday 21st September between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Further information about other events and how to make an enquiry is also available at www.fosterme.co.uk or by calling 0300 126 1009.

Thank you for your support!