



November, 2022



**Don't
miss out
on our
latest
news!**



FosteringLincs
Lincolnshire Fostering Services

Christmas Party Update!

Annual Fostering Survey

Remittance slips' update

Early years group

Keeping Children and Young People safe Online

Long-Term fostering event

ADHD and FASD workshops

The FAB Awards are back!

IMPOWER Conference 2022

The beginner

We want your photos

Online document library

Recipe of the month

Book now your Christmas' Party tickets!



Come and celebrate the festive season with us and your fellow carers!

Less than a month till our first festive party of the season, don't forget to RSVP!

North's Christmas Celebration: Saturday 10th December 12:30 – 15:00 at Stanhope Hall in Horncastle. Book your tickets

here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fostering-north-christmas-celebration-at-stanhope-hall-december-10th-tickets-425140856747>

South's New Year's celebration: Saturday 21st January 12:30 – 15:00 –at Leasingham Village Hall in Leasingham. Book your tickets

here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fostering-south-new-years-celebration-at-leasingham-january-21st-tickets-425144236857>

Lovely food, great company, a super fun disco and some special guests! You won't want to miss it!

Please note that bringing a present for your child will not be a requirement this year. Each child attending the event will be presented with a gift from the team.

You will find in each link all the relevant information about our event and about how to book your place. If you need any further assistance, please email elena.garcia-carretero@lincolnshire.gov.uk or call: 01522 554193.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

The Annual Fostering Survey is back!



Please complete the **annual fostering survey** by clicking the link below.

Your views are important and will help us shape our processes, develop the

service, and highlight areas of priority according to you!

<https://forms.gle/qTmHzMpjLF5Pi6jt9>

Unless you wish to save the survey, you do not need a google account to complete it and submit!

Thank you

Remittance Slips' update

We are aware and acknowledge the challenges you are facing due to the changes in the way you are informed about the payments you receive. Previously Foster Carer Payments were made through a system called Softbox, it was softbox that included the breakdown of information, including children's names etc...

The other remittance slip came from another system (BWON) used more widely for all LCC business and payments; this has continued to provide the remittance slips you receive now. Consequently, you would have received a total of two remittance slips.

When we transitioned over to make payments via Mosaic, which is our social care recording system, it was determined that due to GDPR rules carers would need to keep their own records of each placement and claimed expenses. As this was causing issues for Carers, we worked closely with the Mosaic team and created the 'carer lookup' report, the Fostering Practice Supervisors can use this to be able to provide a breakdown to carers where there are queries.

If you have any queries in relation to discrepancies between the monies received and your own record keeping, please do not hesitate to contact your SSW to investigate this.

Early years group



Come and join our Early Years Group

All foster carers and their under 5's welcome!



FosteringLincs
Lincolnshire Fostering Services

Would you like to learn more about it? Please email caring2learn@lincolnshire.gov.uk

- Would you like to meet more local carers?
- Do you care for a child under 5?
- Would you like to spend 2 mornings each month creating new friendships while the little ones also have a great time?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, you cannot miss our Early Years sessions!

Our Early Years group provides activities created by foster carers for foster carers and the little ones they care for. It provides a safe and trusted space for carers, their children in care and/or their birth children.

Having play dates is an excellent way for children to develop their independence and social skills such as sharing, developing friendships and communication. It's also great for carers as it allows them to extend their own support and social networks.

The early years group meets every other Thursday at one of our most popular

children's centres from 11 am till 12:30pm. Would you like to learn more about it?
Please email caring2learn@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Come and join us on our next session: (No need to book)

Thursday, 8th December

11am – 12:30pm

St Giles Children's Centre, Lamb Gardens, Lincoln, LN2 4NP

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Date with Dan: Keeping Children and Young People safe Online



Over two thirds of students surveyed in the LSCP 2021 Keeping Safe Online

Survey indicated that their parents didn't know everything about their online activities. The survey also showed when parents talked openly to their children about their activity online, those students were less likely to experience cyberbullying and more likely to access support.

We want to give Parents and Carers the information and tools to help them feel confident enough to protect their children and young people from online harm. Dan Hawbrook our resident Online Guru will chat through different apps, online trends, parental controls and any other burning questions they may have!

Don't miss out on this opportunity, get your tickets now!

Book your place here: [A Date with Dan Tickets, Wed 7 Dec 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Family Finders Event



FAMILY FINDERS EVENT!
LONG-TERM FOSTERING

FosteringLincs
Lincolnshire Fostering Services

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Are you considering long term fostering?

In Lincolnshire we have children aged 5-11 waiting for their forever home.

Could you offer them a loving and stable home where they could live for the rest of their childhood and thrive?

Come along to our next event to hear more about those seeking a long-term placement, ask questions and find out what support packages are in place to help a carer according to the needs of the individual child.

Can you offer short breaks (AKA Respite)? We would also like to hear from you! Help our children build relationships that will last a lifetime by being part of their trusted network of adults.

- **When:** Tuesday 17th January.
- **Time:** 10:00am to 2:00pm.
- **Where:** Woodhall Spa Golf Club, The Broadway, LN10 6PU

To book your place, please visit: [Family Finders Information Event - Fostering Services - LCC Tickets, Tue 17 Jan 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

If you have any further enquiries, please email Caring2Learn@Lincolnshire.gov.uk

New ADHD and FASD workshop!

Are you interested in learning more about **ADHD** (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and **FASD** (Foetal Alcohol Syndrome)?

Join any of our upcoming workshops with expert Stephen Tyrrell.

Thursday 26th January 2023 - Morning session **10am - 12pm** via zoom.

Wednesday 15th March 2023 - Evening session **7pm - 9pm** via zoom.

To book your place, please email: caring2learn@lincolnshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

The FAB Awards are returning in 2023!



During our latest Big Conversation meeting on the 25th October at the Showroom in Lincoln, it was announced that our **FAB awards are returning in 2023!**

We can't wait to see you all at our celebration on **Saturday 17th June** at Lincoln University.

Planning has now started, and we would love to hear about your ideas! If you wish to be involved in the planning or have any comments that you would like us to consider, please email participation@lincolnshire.gov.uk

IMPOWER Conference: Great Opportunity and Truly Inspiring

Lincolnshire Fostering Service were recently approached by IMPOWER who recognise the value of good public services and strive to help public services improve and remain the cornerstone of a better society. Fostering was asked to be part of the plenary session at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester from 2-4th November 2022.

Within a varied and exciting agenda IMPOWER invited Lincolnshire to undertake some filming of foster carers, children in care and care leavers to talk about their experience of the Valuing Care Toolkit but also speak about HOPE and what that means for their future in care. This alongside the remarkable presentation and speech from Richard Ayres had a profound and lasting impact.

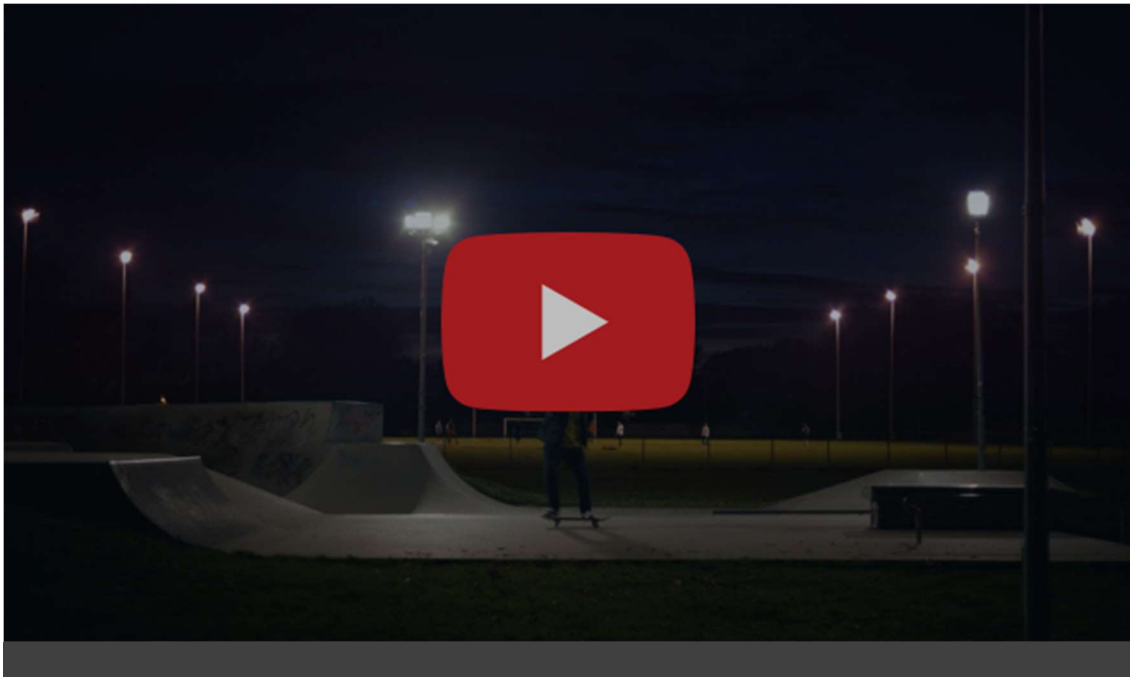
Richard shared his own personal experience and motivation about Fostering, why he works with Lincolnshire Fostering Service, the individual difference and rewards for those placed in his care, what he does to give those children HOPE now and in the future.

Seemingly Richard's speech was amazing where he paid tribute to those in his care, all foster carers, and the wider fostering community alongside staff. The response to his speech was recognised across the whole of the national audience and the Tweets were well worth reading given the positive vibe given the impact for all of those who contributed and made the event a huge success.

Thank you to those of you for taking part and to all of you for making a difference and giving everyone HOPE.....

Just fabulous!

The beginner by John Lewis



Have you seen this year's John Lewis Christmas advert?

The beginner is their latest Christmas campaign, which was launched less than 2 weeks ago but that has already been a hot topic across the nation.

Showing the story of a foster carer who tries to learn to skateboard to have something in common with their foster daughter to be, the beginner has shown a light upon our community, the fantastic job all our foster carers do, and the current needs to recruit more fosterers across the country.

This TV advert has already inspired hundreds of people, and we are hoping some of your personal stories could also inspire many more!

Would you like to share your views about this campaign? Is there a personal story you would like to share?

Perhaps skating isn't one of your secret talents, but we look forward to hearing about how you relate to the message of the beginner. Please email elena.garcia-carretero@lincolnshire.gov.uk about your stories. We can't wait to read them!

There are also many other ways you can help us spread your story. We are

currently in need of more amazing people like yourselves to help us foster the future of Lincolnshire. Do you know anyone who might be interested in fostering? Why don't you send them the video? It might inspire them too!

And don't forget! If you recommend a friend to our service and they are approved, you will receive £250 as part of our Refer a Friend program.

We would love to see your photos!



There is nothing we like more than seeing our children having fun with their foster carers. It is great to see how many different activities they enjoy doing and how many places they love to visit.

We would love to see more from them!

Your amazing photographs are a great tool for us to not only give visibility to our community across Lincolnshire, but also to provide other carers with fun ideas to entertain the little ones with.

If you have some great photos you would like to share with the community, please email them to elena.garcia-carretero@lincolnshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing them!

PS: Please remember to ensure that these photos don't reveal the identity of children in care before sharing them with anyone.

Did you know about our online document library?

Foster Carers can directly access forms, policies, events schedules, expense forms, payments handbook etc... using the link below. This will save you having to request forms, documents, and information from your SSW.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sHB8EO51t1BD4X-zjOyniv35PYpY74FP?usp=sharing>

Please note that the documents will be kept live with the most up-to-date version always being accessible from here. Please delete any old copies (hard copy or electronic) that you may already have.

Please note that the new carers Learning Home, TSD workbook and latest training schedule can also be accessed from this link.

Recipe of the month: Fun apple slices!



Eating or serving healthy snacks can sometimes be a struggle in many households. Getting the little ones to choose fruit over some biscuits to snack in the afternoon might sound impossible, right?

What if we share with you a super tasty, healthy, and fun recipe that will be able to compete even against the yummiest looking doughnut? After all, who said that healthy snacks had to be boring?

Apples are currently in season, they are crisp, accessible, flavourful, and very nutritious, so it just makes sense to make them the stars of our snack!

All you need is the following:

- Apples
- Your favourite spread (peanut butter, cream cheese, jam, honey, low sugar chocolate spread...)
- Fruit of your choice (berries, bananas...)
- Sweet topping of choice (cookie crumbs, sprinkles...)

The process is very simple, but it can be a great opportunity to bond with the little ones while having fun cooking:

- Slice the apple into round slices about 1cm thick.
- Remove the core/seeds area by creating a small circle in the middle of the slice. (This should now look like a small doughnut)
- Spread your sweet ingredient of choice. (Our spread of choice is peanut butter, as it is not only tasty, but also low in sugar and high in protein).
- Prepare your fruit of choice by chopping it very finely.
- Sprinkle your fruit on top of the spread.
- Finally, add one last fun element. Sprinkles, cookie crumbs or even a bit of syrup can make a huge difference for this snack.
- Serve with a glass of milk or drink of choice and enjoy!

Are you trying this recipe? Send us a photo of the process or the result. We would love to see it!



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Address:

Lincolnshire County Council Fostering Service
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

Email:

fostering@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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