

Your approval is generally for up to three placements at one time per household. This can be a combination of full-time and short break placements. Only placements for children who meet the threshold for the disabled children contract care scheme will be paid under the terms of the scheme.

Why choose Derbyshire County Council's disabled children contract care scheme?

- You will be valued and in safe hands
- Our established and dedicated disabled children fostering team will provide ongoing support to you
- We do not make a profit from the contract care scheme
- As a disabled children contract carer you will be self-employed
- You can expect a weekly fee of £483.48 when you have a young person in placement plus fostering allowances applicable to the young person's age. In addition you will receive an additional half fee for subsequent placements
- For providing short breaks you would receive £96.69 per day, per child plus fostering allowances applicable to age.

As a disabled children contract carer you can expect experienced support and supervision and:

- You'll be allocated a dedicated supervising social worker
- You'll receive support from the out of hours service if needed
- Invited to attend monthly reflective practice sessions with other contract carers
- Receive paid breaks – 28 nights for those providing a full time placement and 10 days for short break carers
- Have access to training opportunities.

We believe in the abilities of our disabled children contract carers and recognise the developments young people make in these placements.

Could you be the one to inspire and make a difference?

If you'd like to know more call our friendly team on **0800 0837744** or you can visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering

We would love to hear from you.



What is disabled children contract care?

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Contract carers provide full-time and short break foster placements for disabled children.

Derbyshire's disabled children contract care scheme aims to provide family based long-term foster placements. It also provides short break placements to children and young people who continue to live with their family or carers.

Being a disabled children contract carer

The young people cared for by disabled children contract carers will be aged from birth to 18. They will all be unique but will have complex levels of disabilities and needs.

Ongoing support and supervision is provided by a team of experienced social workers to help you to develop in your role.

Why is disabled children contract care needed?

The pressures of family life can be a challenge particularly when caring for a child with disabilities.

Short breaks are provided to support the caring role and provide disabled children with an opportunity to have experiences and care outside of their home.

Full time placements are required when a young person is no longer able to live at home or is ready to move out of residential provision.



How does the disabled contract care scheme work?

It is an opportunity for you to offer planned support to young people aged from birth to 18 by working as part of a team delivering an intensive package of care, support and guidance alongside parents, carers, social workers, social care, education and health colleagues.

Due to the complex needs of the young people in our care we would require that you remain at home and have no existing employment or commitments which are likely to create conflict of interest or effect your ability to provide full-time care.

For full-time placements you will attend all meetings held in respect of the young person in your care and work alongside education and health colleagues. You will be an advocate for the young person. Some young people will have ongoing contact and support from their family. For short break placements you will be involved in these activities but will need to be respectful that you are not the primary carer and are working alongside parents and carers.

What do I need to offer?

There is no typical carer. We welcome applicants from all walks of life. In this way we are better able to match and meet individual young people's needs.

You will be at least 21 and we welcome disabled contract carers from all backgrounds and ethnicities and you can be single, cohabiting, married, in a civil partnership or same sex relationship.

You will have previous experience of working directly with or caring for young people with complex disabilities. We have carers who have been teachers or teaching assistants in special schools or workers who have been employed in residential settings for disabled children. You will have the skills, time, patience and commitment which will help the young person progress, develop and support their individual needs and circumstances.

You will be able to dedicate full-time care and skills to the young person. You will have suitable accommodation, or accommodation you are willing to adapt with our support and have a spare bedroom.

You will ideally not have any children living with you under the age of 16. We can occasionally consider exceptions when it is considered that other children in the home will not be a detriment to the young person being looked after by a short break carer.

You will have access to transport. If an adapted vehicle is needed in your role as a disabled children contract carer we may be able to look at providing support to provide this.

You must be willing to take part in ongoing training and development. You will be required to access three pieces of training each year and attend monthly reflective practice sessions with other contract carers.