

## **Surrey County Council Supported Lodgings/Foster**

Surrey County Council encourages residents to offer Supported Lodgings/foster

Supported Lodgings, and Fostering are both incredibly rewarding experiences that can transform the lives of both the children/young people being supported and the carers' themselves. Children and young people who enter the care system have often experienced trauma and instability in their lives, and a stable and supportive carer family can make a significant difference in their wellbeing and development. Nationally, there are currently over 70,000 children living with carer families in the UK. However, there is still a significant shortage of Supported Lodgings and foster carers, with around 9,265 new carer families needed in the next year alone. In Surrey, there are over 1,000 children in care and Surrey County Council have just under 400 carer families.

Supported Lodgings is targeted at young adults aged 16-21 to help them build their independence skills ready to live independently in the future, from the security of a caring, stable home environment.

Supported Lodgings Carers and Foster carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to caring. Whether you are single or married, young or old, own your own home or rent, you can still become a carer. The most important thing is a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need.

This is the message that Surrey County Council is promoting in national recruitment film 'Any of Us'. You can watch 'Any of Us' via [Any of Us - YouTube](#) and connect with the Fostering Service on social media via @surreyfostering"

You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at [supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk) or by visiting the website; [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering)