



## Support and Benefits

when you Foster with Northumberland





# Our Vision

## All children to have a place they can call home

We seek to empower our Northumberland Foster Family to support our children and young people in achieving health, hope, and success both now and in the future.

Our mission is to offer a strong supportive community of foster families who have the tools to respond to the individual needs of each child.

Together, we can create a bright and promising tomorrow for every child in our community.



## Support You and your family are not alone

Support for our foster carers sits at the heart of our service, alongside our aspirations for our children and young people.

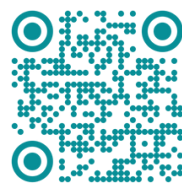
At Northumberland we recognise that supporting our children and young people to thrive and achieve their potential requires holistic support to those around them.

We know that nothing happens in isolation – we therefore have an extensive support package on offer for our foster carers and their families, covering your emotional, practical, financial, and health needs.

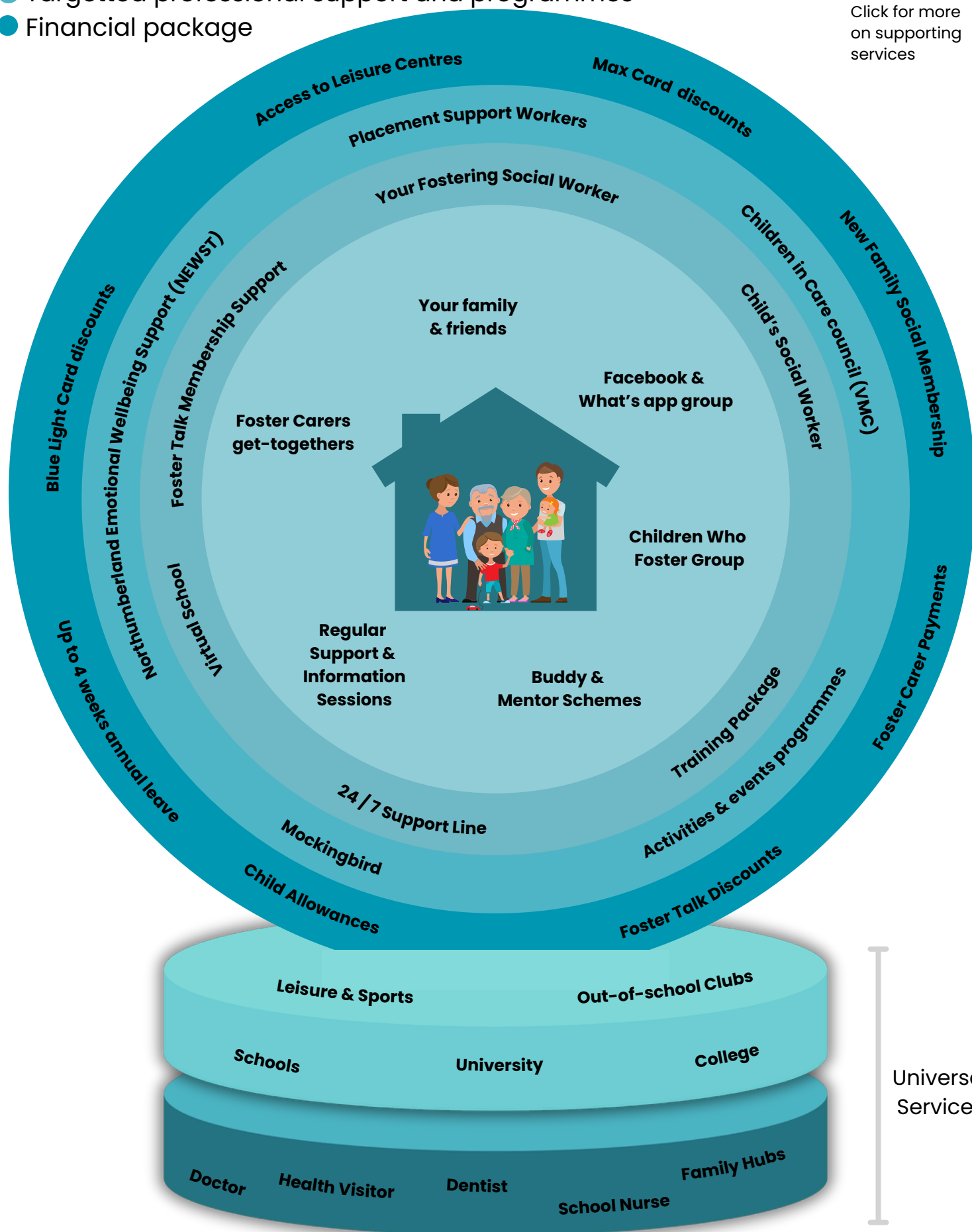
The next page shows the wide variety of services around you and your children, so you can all thrive both as individuals and as a family. You can click on the QR code for the latest detail about the supporting services:

# Support around you and your family

- Foster Family
- Informal support networks
- Professional services
- Targetted professional support and programmes
- Financial package



Click for more  
on supporting  
services



# Training & Development

Our training and development programme is designed to help you support the children with whatever care they need.

All foster carers receive comprehensive training, free of charge, starting with the application process. Once working as a foster carer, you and your social worker will agree on your specific training needs and set out a personal development plan. You are supported with your training by the team as well as tapping into experienced foster families. There are mandatory courses that you complete in your first year to attain the statutory national Training Support and Development Standards, along with a small number of ongoing mandatory courses each year.

Training is offered in several ways to suit the various topics you cover, including online instructor-led via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc, self-paced eLearning, blended learning, and bite size sessions. Getting together with foster carers and other professionals in training, meetings and support groups enhances your learning by sharing practical experiences.

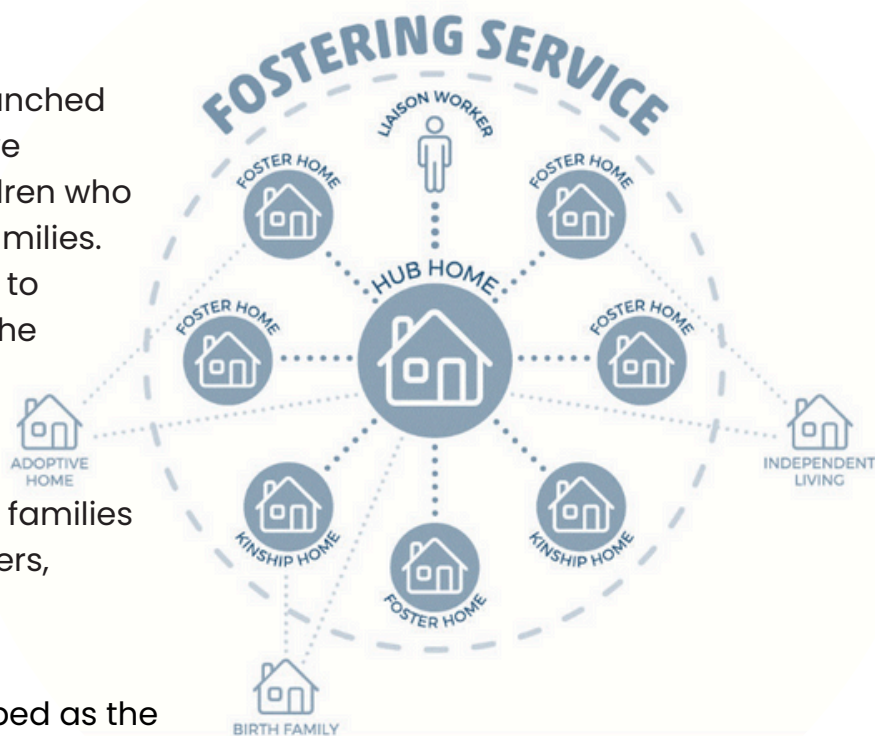
The needs of children in your care is the key driver for the types of other learning that you will choose to do in addition to the basic programme – all supported by the teams around you and the children.

## Mockingbird

Our Mockingbird programme was launched in 2021 and is already bringing positive outcomes for cared for children, children who foster, foster carers and their wider families. Due to early successs, we are looking to develop this fostering model across the county.

The fundamental aim is to create a family and friends network of foster families who meet up like you would with sisters, uncles, friends, cousins etc. for activities, friendships and support.

The Hub Home carer could be described as the matriach / patriarch of the family. The one that the children gravitate towards, who organises family get togethers, and also offers sleepovers. We know our Mockingbird families help alleviate the sense of isolation that foster families and cared for children can sometimes feel.



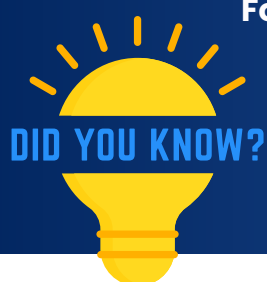


# Foster Care Finances

Fostering finances are paid via direct debit on a fortnightly basis from approval. You receive a skills fee and child allowance per fostered child. From 2025, our fostering finances go through an annual cost of living review.

## Weekly fostering child allowance April 2025 to March 2026 (child age dependent)

0 – 2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 10 years	11 – 15 years	16 – 17 years
170	176	194	220	258



**Foster with Northumberland and**, while you are available to offer a service, **you receive a basic foster carer skills fee when you do not have a child living with you**

We pay 45p per mile for above and beyond mileage

## Weekly foster carer skills fee April 2025 to March 2026

Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Mockingbird Hub Carer
£111	£221	£275	£783

### Example weekly payment

A band 3 carer looking after 5 and 11 year old children receives the following:

Child 1 Skills Fee = £275

Child 1 Child Allowance = £194

Child 2 Skills Fee = £275

Child 2 Child Allowance = £220

**Total weekly payment:**

**£964**



# What you could get out of fostering

- Ability to use existing experience as a parent
- Use professional skills to help children and families
- Fill a space in your family
- Help your community by sharing your time & energy
- Providing something the community will value
- Offering strengths/skills from experience of disability
- The rewards from helping a child when they need it most
- **Supporting children living in Northumberland to thrive and stay local**



More questions? Scan the QR code to visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage.

For the children in your care, they become part of your family for however long they need you and the stability, support, and care that you offer them.



## Next Steps

If you are interested in applying to join our Northumberland Foster Family please contact the regional hub via any of the following:

**[www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk](http://www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk) | Telephone: 0800 917 7771**

## Facebook: Foster with Northumberland



← Scan the black QR code and follow our Northumberland Foster Family Facebook page to stay in touch with local information, recruitment events as well as stories, videos and case studies.

## Meet our Foster Carers

View our latest videos featuring local children and families from across the region by scanning the pink QR code ➡

