



Advisory board for The Fostering Network in Scotland

Who are we?

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity, bringing together everyone who is involved in the lives of children and young people who are fostered to make foster care the very best it can be. Our mission is to support those who foster, improve opportunities for fostered children and young people and provide expert guidance to all fostering services. You can find out more about our activity on www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk

The advisory board

Our Young People's Advisory Board was established in October 2022 to continue our ambition of young people's voices being the guiding light for our work. The advisory board is made up of young people aged 16-21 with experience of foster care, including those who are children of foster carers, from across Scotland. The board continue to support our work to #KeepThePromise and uphold children's rights.

What's the commitment?

The advisory board meet online every two weeks and aim to meet in person every six to eight weeks. Additional opportunities, residentials, meetings and events may arise over the course of the year which you will be invited to take part in.

What have we done?

The board had an impactful first year, setting out their key priorities, which are to raise awareness of the board, mental health and care experience, stigma and language and, transitions and change. Together they co-wrote and presented a speech at the Scottish Parliament calling for a commitment to keep the promise and support their priorities of change.

Th board have built positive relationships with key people and organisations that will influence change. An example of this is meeting the Natalie Don, the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise.

The board have [created an animation](#) sharing what they have done so far.



What will we do?

That's very much up to you and the other members of the board. As the board grows, its impactful work will grow and develop with it. Together you may want to support one of our campaigns or raise awareness of an issue that affects the foster care community? Would you like to create something that supports foster carers in their role? Or a project that supports children and young people in foster care with a particular issue? Perhaps you want to design opportunities for those with experience of foster care to come together and just have fun, create new friendships and build a community. We will meet regularly to agree on what you'd like to do and you will be supported by staff to make your ideas come to life.

What do I get out of it?

We hope that being part of the board will allow you to meet new people, perhaps make new friends and become part of a bigger community of people within fostering and care experience.

We also hope you have new experiences that support your own personal development and skills development. Members have shared being on the board has built up their confidence, resilience and perseverance. It's a place where they feel heard and have a sense of accomplishment.

Is this a paid opportunity?

The majority of your work with the board will be on a voluntary basis which means you won't be paid to be a board member. Although any expenses for things like travel, accommodation and food while you are doing anything with the board will be paid for.

There may be occasions where you are asked if you would like to represent The Fostering Network at an event and, for example, deliver a speech or take part in a consultation. There may be payment for these types of activities but not for the board's regular meetings or project work.



How do I apply?

Contact our project worker, Zoe Roy, to provide the following:

- name
- age
- location (town/city)
- if you have experience of being a child in a family who fosters (you do not need to provide any details of your experience)
- why you would like to be an advisory board member for The Fostering Network in Scotland.

You can provide the details in the following ways:

- Email Zoe at zoe.roy@fostering.net to arrange a phone or video call.
- Record a short video or audio clip on WhatsApp and send it to Zoe's work mobile number - **079030 79567**.
- You can make a poster providing information from above.

You might want to include what skills you think you would bring to the advisory board, or why you are passionate about making foster care the best it can be. You may find it helpful to reflect on what you think you would gain from being a part of the board and why an opportunity like this supports your personal goals or aspirations. And if you have any ideas about what you think the board could do, we'd love to hear about it.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 15 April 2024**.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Zoe using the contact details below:

- email: zoe.roy@fostering.net
- WhatsApp/mobile: **079030 79567**

