

## **Surrey County Council given national award for their fostering friendly status**

Surrey County Council yesterday received the Fostering Friendly: Employer of the Year Award - supported by Partnerships in Children's Services, at The Fostering Network's Fostering Excellence Awards.

Kevin Williams, chief executive of The Fostering Network, said: 'Surrey County Council understand their responsibilities as corporate parents for all children living in foster care across the county. They see their children as an asset for the future, and they believe in investing not only in them, but in those who care for them. That is what inspired them to become Fostering Friendly employers.'

'The Surrey Fostering Team worked alongside their Human Resources team to develop a range of policies that would benefit Surrey County Council workers who had chosen to foster alongside their work. These policies include flexibility so that staff could really be there for the children they foster, no matter when a meeting was scheduled, and this additional support is part of ensuring that they are at the forefront of foster carer satisfaction and retention.'

'They believe in leading from the front and they hope that their example will encourage others in Surrey, and across the country, to put children in care first and consider becoming Fostering Friendly employers.'

Find out more about The Fostering Excellence Awards on The Fostering Network's website.

To find out more about fostering in Surrey, visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering), call 0800 0969 626 or email [fostering.recruitment@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:fostering.recruitment@surreycc.gov.uk)

### **Notes to editors**

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1. The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity. We are passionate about the difference foster care makes to children and young people. Transforming children's lives is at the heart of everything we do.
2. Over 64,000 children live with almost 55,000 foster families across the UK each day. The Fostering Network estimates that a further 9,070 foster families are needed in the next 12 months alone, in order to ensure all fostered children can live with the right family for them.