

# Meet Anna

Anna is 15, she has blue eyes, braces and an infectious laugh. She has a younger brother who is 9 and plays football on Sundays.

Music is a big part of Anna's life. She takes a long time to trust people and finds it hard to manage and talk about her emotions, so often voices her feelings through the songs she writes and plays on her guitar. She can be impulsive, and finds it difficult to adapt to change ... but life for Anna has been unpredictable and tough.



Anna would benefit from the care of a High Need foster carer.

Visit the website or scan the QR code to find out more.



▶ SCAN ME

fostering  
in Somerset



Homes and  
Horizons

Homes and Horizons is a partnership between Somerset Council, care providers Homes to Inspire (part of Shaw Trust) and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

High Need foster carers receive around  
£45,000 per year

Recruiting Now  
**01823 214007**

-  [fostering@homesandhorizons.org](mailto:fostering@homesandhorizons.org)
-  [facebook.com/fosteringinsomerset](https://facebook.com/fosteringinsomerset)
-  [www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk](http://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk)

COULD YOU HELP  
CHANGE A CHILD'S  
STORY AS A HIGH NEED  
FOSTER CARER?

Homes and Horizons in partnership with Fostering in Somerset.  
High Need foster care for children and young people who have  
experienced trauma

# Your Fostering Journey

Let us know you're interested.

Contact us by phone or website.

We recommend reading through the 'High Need' page of the website

## Initial Visit

One of our team visits you at home

Consider whether to continue

## Checks & Refs

We undertake a number of checks & references (such as medical/DBS)

Attend 'Skills to Foster' training course with other potential foster carers

Complete application form

## Panel

Assessing Social Worker visits to complete your assessment

You are invited to come along to the fostering panel who make a recommendation for you about fostering

Approx 4 to 6 months to this point

You are now a registered Homes and Horizons High Need foster carer

A final decision is made about approving you as a foster carer

You meet your Supervising Social Worker who will provide you with ongoing support, advice and guidance

## First placement

A team of professionals will provide support every step of the way, as you work together as a team around the child.

You continue your fostering journey with ongoing support and make a real difference.

# A Great Foster Carer Can Change a Child's Story.



## What is High Need Fostering?

High Need foster carers provide targeted support for Somerset children and young people with complex needs, often aged between 11 – 15 years old, providing them with a safe place to live and a nurturing foster family to support them through the difficulties they may have experienced

This specialist fostering scheme offers carers a robust package of emotional and practical support, plus enhanced fees and allowances of roughly £45,000 a year. Carers will benefit from wrap around support, tailored to each child's care plan, in addition to extensive, on-going training and development.

This is a demanding role, likely to be filled with challenges and obstacles alongside the achievements and rewards, but we'll be with you every step of the way, with careful consideration given to matching the needs of both the carer and the child.

# How We Will Support You

High Need foster carers benefit from a robust package of wraparound support and training, to include:

- ♥ Enhanced support from your Social Worker
- ♥ Specialist training, tailored to support you in providing therapeutic, trauma informed care
- ♥ Regular support groups alongside other carers
- ♥ Regular clinical group supervision
- ♥ Regular placement reviews to ensure that children and carers are receiving the right support at the right time
- ♥ Support out of hours, and planned sleepovers and afterschool care for children with support carers
- ♥ Access to additional support where needed through our therapeutic school
- ♥ Support for children during school holidays through the 50 week school provision
- ♥ Around £45,000 per year in fees and allowances

## What we need from you

High need fostering isn't right for everyone, but may be a good option for individuals with experience of caring or working with young people including previous fostering experience – although what matters most is that you have the right qualities and skills. Carers need to be committed to ongoing training and development, and attend a variety of meetings – so a dedicated and willing attitude alongside key qualities such as resilience and patience are crucial. Above all, we need carers who are willing to help a child recover from the trauma they have experienced in their lives by parenting them in a therapeutic way. It is also important for High Need carers to have access to a car, so they can support a child with travelling to and from school.



If you're interested in fostering, we'd love to hear from you. You're not committing to anything by contacting us to find out more.