



To: Foster Carers in Wales

14 May 2018

Dear foster carers,

This Foster Care Fortnight I am writing to all foster carers in Wales to express my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do in caring for and supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

I have met many foster carers and am always deeply impressed with the dedication and commitment that I encounter, even while I know that fostering is often a very challenging task. Thank you. What you do is so important for our society and, in particular, the children and young people you are caring for.

I have also had the pleasure of speaking to care-experienced young people who have talked to me about how their foster families have supported them, not just by providing a home but with a family environment where they can feel safe, grow and thrive. Foster families also help them prepare for the future and achieve their personal outcomes. Fostered young people have told me how their foster carers have helped them to consider opportunities in further education and employment, or given them the confidence to follow other ambitions. What an incredible testimony to the work of the thousands of foster carers and their families here in Wales!

Foster Care Fortnight 2018 runs from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May. One of the aims of Foster Care Fortnight is to raise awareness of the need for more foster carers in Wales. The best people to do that are existing foster carers, so can I please encourage you to do all you can to inspire others to consider fostering.

The Fostering Network's website provides some helpful suggestions and information for prospective foster carers: <https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/advice-information/could-you-foster>

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Alternatively your local authority will be able provide information about fostering in your local area.

Thank you again and have a very happy and successful Foster Care Fortnight.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant

Minister for Children and Social Care