

Could you foster an older child?

Teenagers deserve safe and loving foster homes too. We are looking for positive role models who can transform teenage lives and give them the chance they deserve. There's a perception that teenagers can be difficult but with our support and training, foster carers can thrive on the challenge.

This is a letter from a 14-year-old from North Tyneside who just wants to belong.

Dear somebody,

What I'd like more than anything is to be part of a family.

I can't live with my own family because they hurt me when I was little. I found it hard to trust adults for a long time because of this.

I live in a children's home and before that I lived with lots of different people. I like looking after the cat and guinea pigs that are here. If you have pets at your house, that would be great. I like baking too and make lovely brownies.

I have never had a proper family home and I dream of a nice family who can help look after me. I know it will be hard joining a family, but I really want to try. My social worker and the fostering team will help us all.

I'm learning to get out and about on my own – I've started using the bus and this has been a big step for me.

My school is close to where I live, and I hope I can stay there. I've been reading more and getting books from the library at school.

Just like my friends, I need an adult who will love, accept and understand me, who can make me happier and who I can have a laugh with. I have to believe there is someone out there for me, could it be you?

If you don't think that you can help me, could you help another child?

Thank you for reading,

Child in care, aged 14