

The Fostering Information Exchange

What is the Fostering Information Exchange?

The Fostering Information Exchange (FIE) is an online space where everyone involved or interested in foster care can share practice, explore ideas and discuss issues and new developments. FIE has been developed for the sector by the sector on a secure online collaboration platform called the Knowledge Hub. It is one of the most active groups on the Knowledge Hub.

What does the Fostering Information Exchange offer?

As a member of FIE you can:

- share ideas, issues and case studies or ask for advice and opinions in the **discussion forum**
- share leaflets, presentations, reports and much more in the **library**
- find out about forthcoming events, training sessions and workshops in the **events** section
- create **connections with other members** in your field of interest and chat with them via instant messenger.

From your own Knowledge Hub home page, you can also create **blogs**, update your **profile**, send direct **messages** to other members and manage your **email notifications**.

Who can join the Fostering Information Exchange ?

FIE is for everyone with an interest in or a connection to fostering. There are hundreds of members, including:

- foster carers
- researchers
- policy makers
- social workers
- fostering service providers
- training and development staff
- prospective foster carers.

How to join the Fostering Information Exchange

You'll need to register on the Knowledge Hub to become a member. It only takes a few minutes – just follow these three easy steps:

1. Go to Knowledge Hub — <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk> and click 'Register' at the top of the page.
2. Fill in your details and submit the form. You'll be sent a validation email – just click the link to validate.
3. Sign in to Knowledge Hub with your new account details and go to the Fostering Information Exchange: <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/web/fosteringinformationexchange>

Got a query about how to register? Contact knowledgehub@local.gov.uk

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What do members say about being part of the Fostering Information Exchange?

'I promote FIE to colleagues as a useful site for foster carers' views and for generally keeping abreast of responses to developments in the field.'

'Even if I am not looking for something particular, it is often nice to read the blog posts to remind yourself that other foster carers are in the same position, and are dealing with the same issues as you. It sometimes reinforces your belief that you are doing good work when times are hard.'

'It is an invaluable resource in my role as a fostering social worker.'

'This is a really valuable resource in helping the flow of informed information and carer opinions... It's one of the more valuable support mechanisms to me as a foster carer.'

The Fostering Information Exchange has been developed by a partnership involving these organisations:

Supported by



the fostering network
the voice of foster care

