



Looking for a new fostering challenge? Become a Mockingbird hub home carer

We are looking for experienced foster carers to support other fostering families as part of the new Mockingbird programme. As a hub home carer you will provide peer support to other foster carers, respite care and group social activities.

About the Mockingbird programme

The Mockingbird programme is an alternative method of delivering foster care which centres on the idea of an extended network of family support. It empowers families to support each other and overcome problems before they escalate, and offers children a more positive experience of care.

The programme uses the concept of a constellation, where six to 10 satellite families live in close proximity to a dedicated hub home which provides peer support, planned and emergency respite care and regular social activities. The constellation also builds links with other adults important to children's care plans and to resources in the wider community that can provide them with enhanced opportunities to learn, develop and succeed.

The Mockingbird programme is run by The Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity, in conjunction with Wigan and other fostering services across the UK. The programme has been running since 2015 and has the potential to improve placement stability, safety and permanency for children and young people in care and to improve support for, and retention of, foster carers. To find out about the national programme visit www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/mockingbird

Being a Mockingbird hub home carer

Hub home carers are crucial to the success of the Mockingbird programme and each individual constellation. Hub home carers act as the glue that unites the satellite families in each constellation together into a community. It is a full time role for experienced foster carers who have already completed their preparation training, post approval induction period and the national Training Support and Development Standards.

As a hub home carer, you will:

- have two spare bedrooms for planned and emergency sleepovers for children and young people living in the constellation. *Two bedrooms need to be available by August 2018.*
- support and mentor satellite families
- plan and host regular social events for all the families in the constellation



- host and support contact with siblings and birth families
- attend and coordinate training for carers in the constellation.

As a hub home carer(s) you will be confident, energetic, resourceful and experienced in working with a wide range of partners. You must also be empathetic and willing to coach others. Hub carers will take on a leadership role and have strong support networks of their own.

Information Session 12th March 2018

Wigan Fostering and Residential Services are delivering a joint briefing for staff and Foster Carers to discuss the **Mockingbird** and **ATOM** projects. In respect of Mockingbird we will be inviting a **guest Hub Carer from Leeds** to discuss the role in more depth 10:30 – 14:30 at Progress House. **Please email Fostercarertraining@wigan.gov.uk to book a place on a briefing by 8th March.** Bring your own lunch, we will provide refreshments.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in becoming a Hub Carer visit the [Mockingbird Family Model webpage](#) on the Wigan Council website to complete the expression of interest form no later than **16th March 2018**.

Interviews

There will be a two stage interview including a young person and adult panel on week commencing the 26th March 2018.