Irish Foster Care Association

FOSTER CARE HUBS

Information Leaflet

Coordinated by IFCA, Foster Care Hubs bring together foster carers and the fostering community for a variety of services and activities including; peer support, social events, learning opportunities and information talks.

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What are Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs have been created by the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) to offer services for all those involved in foster care to come together and meet for a range of activities such as: peer support, social events, learning opportunities and information talks. Coordinated by IFCA, these events will be supported by staff and trained volunteers who are recruited and supported by IFCA.

Where are they located?

IFCA has identified the following areas for the new Foster Care Hubs:

1. Laois/Offaly Foster Care Hub
2. Longford/Westmeath Foster Care Hub
3. Sligo Foster Care Hub
4. Dublin North Foster Care Hub
5. Dublin South West Foster Care Hub
6. Cavan/Monaghan Foster Care Hub
7. Mid-West Foster Care Hub
8. North Cork Foster Care Hub

Please note you do not need to reside in any of the areas identified above to attend an IFCA event. Areas that are not identified above may have an IFCA Branch located so please check the IFCA website or contact the office for more information.

What is the difference between IFCA Branches and Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs have been identified in areas that do not currently have Branches. Foster Care Hubs are coordinated mainly by IFCA staff and supported by trained volunteers. IFCA aims to bring existing and potential members together through a wide range of services delivered through Foster Care Hubs. These services are open to everyone in the fostering community.

Who can attend the Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs are open to foster carers, those involved in foster care, and those who have an interest in foster care. There will be times when foster carers will meet as a distinct group together to seek and offer peer support to each other in a safe space which is facilitated by a trained IFCA facilitator.

Do I have to be an IFCA Member to attend a Foster Care Hub?

You do need to be a Member of IFCA to continually avail of services within Foster Care Hubs but membership of IFCA is free for the first year and everyone who is not already a member of IFCA will be invited to join.

What type of events will take place in these Hubs?

IFCA's Foster Care Hubs will offer a variety of events including:

- Learning events
- Social events
- Information sessions
- Social events for children and families
- Peer support for birth children
- Peer support (foster carers only)
- Support consultations

Events will be offered to existing and potential members in the catchment areas and will not be confined to individual counties. Members of Branches may also avail of the offerings in the Foster Care Hubs.

Are there any 'foster carer only' events taking place?

Yes, there will be foster carer only events taking place in these Hubs on topics of interest and importance to foster carers. These events will take place in a safe and confidential setting.

How will I know what events are taking place?

All IFCA events are advertised on IFCA's website. If you are a member of IFCA, you will also receive direct email notifications about events.

How can I get involved?

Just come along! If you would like to become more involved in your Foster Care Hub, you may wish to volunteer. Volunteers are central to the work of IFCA. Volunteers will work alongside staff to deliver services through the Foster Care Hubs. Volunteers in local areas also contribute a wealth of invaluable knowledge to IFCA's work. If you think that you have the skills or knowledge to support IFCA's Foster Care Hubs, contact IFCA on 01- 459 9474, or www.ifca.ie

Who can I contact to find out more?

If you would like to learn more about our Foster Care Hubs, please contact IFCA on 01-459 9474, or admin@ifca.ie or visit www.ifca.ie