**Short Breaks/Respite Foster Carer**

**Employer:** Trafford Council/Self-employed

**Location:** Trafford

**Salary:**

**Tier One -** £17569 plus care payments (£45.27 per session) up to 222 sessions per year. Part-time position – pro-rata.

**Tier Two –** Enhanced care payment for complex health and care needs

**Working hours:** Full time (222 sessions per year) and part-time

**Contract type:** Rolling contract

**Closing date:** 4th May 2018 at 4:30pm.

Do have experience of working with children and young people with disabilities/complex and additional needs and are you looking for a new challenge?

If your answer is yes then Trafford Council’s specialist Home from Home short break scheme may be suitable as a new role for you. Our Home from Home service is a highly valued and respected provider of short breaks for children with disabilities and their family.

A short break is provided to a child and young person so parents and families can have a break from caring, and a child or young person has the opportunity to experience new people and situations and widen their social networks. This short break may be a day visit or, more usually, an overnight stay.

We are now recruiting foster carers for our Home from Home service who can care for children with disabilities/complex additional needs aged between 0 - 18 years old. Carers must be able to demonstrate they have the time, energy, space and empathy to offer to a child or young person.

We need carers who can show commitment, understanding and compassion to children and families. Carers must be willing to work with a wide age range of children in order to meet the needs of the service. Children and young people would expect to have their own room.

We provide our foster carers with excellent training, support and a financial package and will help guide them through the assessment process and work with them as a team to ensure the needs of the foster carer and the child are met. To find out more about the position, please call Trafford’s Home from Home scheme on 0161 912 2060 asking for Julie Allinson or Kelly Allan.

**Application Process**

**Step one – Enquiry**

Please contact Trafford’s Home from Home scheme to discuss your interest in the role and to ask any questions.

If you decide that you would like to proceed further then you should complete the online application form for the position before the closing date.

**Step two – Interview**

If you are shortlisted for the position you will be invited to attend an interview. You will also complete a written assessment. If you are successful at interview you will receive a home visit from a Supervising Social Worker.

**Step three – home visit**

The purpose of the home visit is to assess your home conditions to ensure they meet the required standard under fostering regulations.

We will also gather more information about why you want to foster and discuss your motivation and interest in becoming a short-break/respite foster carer. It also gives us a chance to speak to you, and your partner if you have one, about the remainder of the process.

At this point, we want to see if you are able to understand the commitment and care that is required of you. As well as checking whether you have any knowledge of children with disabilities/complex needs/behavioural difficulties.

Finally, we will look to see if you are able to respect the child’s culture, heritage, race and religion and work with the child’s natural family.

If the supervising social worker feels that you are an appropriate applicant then we will progress with a formal application.

**Step four - Application process**

Due to the fact that we are a child protection agency, we will need to ask a lot of questions and gain a lot of information about you in order for the application to progress.

You, your partner and any children or adults over 16 in your household will need to be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service. You will also need to visit your GP and undergo a medical. If there are any concerns with the results, we will contact you to discuss them further.

We will make sure that you know exactly what information we require to make sure the application runs as smoothly as possible.

Once we have all the relevant information, if your enquiry cannot be progressed we will tell you why. In certain circumstances there may be a need for a second home visit.

**Step five - Training**

Following the medical and DBS checks, you will need to undertake a basic training programme, which takes around 3 full days to complete. This is to provide you with the necessary skills to welcome a child into your home.

The training programme runs throughout the year. Applicants can choose a course to suit their schedule, but may have their application delayed until they have chosen a course.

A Supervising Social Worker who is a qualified, experienced social worker will be allocated as your assessor to undertake your assessment which may take between four to six months to carry out.

The assessment is one which is competency based covering 4 areas including; understanding your role as a foster carer, understanding health safety and health care, understanding children and young people and develop yourself.

Together we will find evidence of your abilities and consider comments about your training and future development needs.

We will visit up to four personal referees, current/ex-partners, contact previous employment and ask them similar questions covering the competencies. You should choose people who can comment on your ability to look after children.

On completion of your report you will be given the opportunity to read it and make your own comments.

**Step six – Foster Panel**

The assessment will be presented to the fostering panel who will consider your application in the strictest confidence and make a recommendation to Trafford Council. If you don't agree with their decision then you can appeal.

Once you have been approved, you are ready to begin fostering.