Council seeking foster homes for children with disabilities

There is a continual <u>drive</u> to find foster carers in Edinburgh, especially those willing to take on the extremely rewarding challenge of caring for children with disabilities, and tomorrow a drop in session is being held for potential new foster carers to find out more.

The <u>'Foster Me Foster Us'</u> campaign aims to help address a shortage of foster carers in the city; more carers are needed to provide children with safe and caring homes while they are unable to live with their own families.

The City of Edinburgh Council is always looking for people determined to make a difference; whether it be giving a few hours a week respite care, or providing a home and full time care.

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Convener of Education - Paul Godzik

Councillor Paul Godzik, Children and Families Convener, said: "We are asking potential carers to come forward and provide support so families can take a break once in a while and recharge their batteries. We have some fantastic carers who have had very positive experiences caring for children with disabilities and I would encourage anyone interested to take the opportunity to hear from them."

For those interested, a drop-in session is being held at Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, tomorrow, 14 March 2013

between 5pm-7pm. Would-be carers will get the chance to see what they could gain from the many fostering opportunities available.

Experienced foster carers, Gail and Sharon, said "We get a lot of satisfaction from seeing the kids improve and develop in so many ways. It's nice to know that we can use our experience and time to make a difference to children and make them part of our family.

"We are very lucky to have a very good family and friends support network, many of whom are experienced in child care and additional needs, so we get lots of support from them. We also have a very good Council Family Based Care support worker who is always there when we need her".

This drop-in session is the next in a series of events aimed at increasing the amount of carers in the city. Foster care recruitment staff and carers will be on hand to meet potential carers and answer any questions. Further sessions are planned for 18 April and 13 June. All sessions run from 5pm to 7pm.