

PRESS RELEASE

No: 562/2016

Date: 13th October 2016

‘Shaping Families’: Fostering & Adoption Awareness Week – 17th to 21st October

Next week is Fostering and Adoption Awareness Week. The Social Services Department of the Care Agency have organised a series of informational events and workshops, which will take place throughout the week, in order to raise awareness of fostering and adoption in Gibraltar, and to provide information and support to anyone interested in taking the next steps in the fostering and adoption process.

The Gibraltar campaign coincides with similar initiatives in the UK and follows last year’s successful ‘Be a Hero’ campaign.

Under the theme ‘shaping families’, the awareness week aims to:

- Provide the community with a better understanding of the fostering and adoption process in Gibraltar, what foster care means and how it works locally;
- Provide an insight in to the adoption process and how it may be necessary for children who need permanence;
- Continue to recruit, via the Care Agency, prospective foster carers and adoptive parents from a variety of backgrounds with different skills and qualities that can help shape a family around a child.

Fostering and Adoption Awareness Week will be formally launched by Minister for Social Services Samantha Sacramento at 6pm on Monday 17th October at the O’Callaghan Elliott Hotel. Led by the Fostering and Adoption team, the event will involve presentations from social workers, which will preview the comprehensive workshops on offer throughout the week. The event is open to anyone with a genuine interest in fostering and adoption. Please register your attendance in advance via email to: mfess@gibraltar.gov.gi

Anyone interested in meeting the Social Services team and finding out more about the Fostering and Adoption process in Gibraltar is strongly encouraged to attend any of the events and workshops on offer throughout the week.



Fostering and Adoption Awareness Week Programme

Launch Event

O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel

- Monday 17th at 6pm

Register interest: mfess@gibraltar.gov.gi

Workshop: 'Shaping families through fostering'

Lecture Rooms 1 and 2, GSLA Bayside Sports Centre

- Tuesday 18th at 6pm
- Thursday 20th at 12 noon

Register Interest: fosteringandadoption@careagency.gov.gi

Information Drop-in Sessions

The Care Agency, 16b Governor's Parade (Entrance via George's Lane)

- Wednesday 19th from 11am – 1pm
- Friday 21st from 11am – 1pm

Register Interest: fosteringandadoption@careagency.gov.gi

Minister for Social Services, the Hon Samantha Sacramento MP, said: "I am absolutely delighted at the progress that has been made in Gibraltar's the Fostering and Adoption service. Give the success since our 'Be a Hero campaign last year, I must thank and give credit to the Care Agency team for organising another week of awareness events this year, as well as for the developments in the service itself. Fostering or adopting a child is life-changing and our hope that we will be able to work towards shaping new families is reflected in this year's theme. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about the service to attend any of our events and workshops, or to contact the Care Agency for further information."