

# Are you in a position to make a real difference to the care experiences of looked after children in East Lothian?

East Lothian Council is an Adoption and Fostering Agency. As such it is required to make decisions about whether to approve people as foster carers or adopters, whether to register children as requiring adoption and with whom such children should be placed. To do this we require an Adoption and Fostering Panel and we are currently looking for skilled and enthusiastic people to become Panel Members.

This is a fantastic development opportunity to use your skills and experience to make informed decisions about whether to approve people as Foster Carers and Adoptive Parents and to review our existing carers. Panel members also consider permanent care arrangements for children.

## Panel members are required to:

- Prepare for panel meetings in advance by reading the papers provided;
- Attend panel meetings a maximum of once every four weeks;
- Attend two business meetings / development sessions per year.



## Panel members should have:

- A knowledge of and interest in Adoption and Fostering from personal or professional experience;
- An understanding of child development and the implications of trauma and attachment difficulties;
- The ability to express their views whilst respecting the views and contributions of others;
- The ability to work as part of a group;
- The ability to assimilate and evaluate complex material.

A background in social work is not essential and we are particularly keen to hear from colleagues from a range of settings including health, education, adult and children's services.

If you are interested in becoming a panel member or would like more information, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Lindsey Byrne, Service Manager at [lbyrne@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:lbyrne@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) or 01620 827437

