



# Western Health and Social Care Trust

## Press Release

31 March 2008

### **Western Trust seeking more foster carers**

The Western Health and Social Care Trust's Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team is inviting people in the Omagh and Fermanagh areas to find out more about fostering. The Trust's newly formed team will be hosting information sessions in the coming weeks in Omagh and Enniskillen in an effort to increase the number of foster carers in these areas.

The information evenings will take place on Tuesday, 8 April 2008, in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, starting at 8pm and on Tuesday, 15 April 2008, in Fermanagh House, Enniskillen, starting at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in foster care is welcome to attend.

Speaking about the need for additional foster carers, Clare McCallion, the Western Trust's Foster Care Team Manager, said: "The Western Trust is committed to developing a wide variety of stable alternative family choices with loving foster families and in doing this we aim to increase the opportunities and quality of life for children and young people who cannot live with their birth family.

"There are currently 95 foster carers in the Omagh and Fermanagh areas and a total of 120 children in our care. The Western Trust would like to increase the total number of foster carers by 30 to ensure the needs of the children are met in this area.

"All members of the Western Trust's Fostering and Recruitment Team are available to speak with members of the public who require information about fostering or the fostering process."

She further added: “To be able to meet the varied needs and personalities of the children in our care we would like to encourage members of the public who feel they may like further information on fostering or may have something to offer to please attend one of these sessions.

“As part of the recruitment process invitations to attend community events/groups would be warmly welcomed by the team. We are available and willing to travel from Omagh to Fermanagh to L/Derry.”

For further information about the services provided, the fostering process or the information evenings please contact the Western Trust’s Fostering Recruitment and Assessment team on 028 82835298 or via email [marie.walsh@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:marie.walsh@westerntrust.hscni.net). Clare McCallion, the Western Trust’s Foster Care Team Manager, can be contacted on 028 71314240.

**Ends**

**For further information please contact Western Trust Communications Department, on (028) 7161 1188 or (028) 7161 1429.**