



Introducing our new foster family...the Pearsons!

asphaleia fostering are thrilled to introduce our new foster family Mike and Vicki Pearson and their four children Luke, Milly, Georgia and Beck, to our fostering service. The Pearson family has space to foster two siblings of school age for long or short term, emergency or respite placements, which is a great addition to what we can offer children in care in Sussex.

Vicki is an administrator for asphaleia training and first heard about fostering with asphaleia during her induction. We had a quick chat with Vicki to find out why her and her husband have chosen to foster with asphaleia, as well as how she is going to fit in her job with fostering

and being a mum and nan to her ever growing family!

Why did you decide to become foster carers?

I love having a full house and I love children, so once I realised Mike and I were in a position where we could open our home to children in care, it was quite an easy decision!

In my current role, I interact with disengaged kids at the training centre on a daily basis. Through my experience here, I know that just having a quick chat with them can make a huge difference to how their day is and have a positive impact. I knew this was something I definitely wanted to do. I believe I had a perfect upbringing and would love to have the chance to try and provide that for a child in need, even if they are only with us for a short time.

I will be reducing my hours at work so I work around the school day and am available to take and pick up from school – Mike will continue working full time.

Why did you choose asphaleia?

I already work for asphaleia and know how hard everyone works here for all the children we provide support to – their wellbeing is our constant focus. Why would I want to go anywhere else?

How do your own children feel about you fostering?

I have four children, ranging from 23 years old to four years old. I also have two grandchildren, with another due in August! They are very supportive and are looking forward to welcoming foster children into our family. I feel my children have a lot to offer them.

When will you be ready to accept referrals?

We are just completing some renovations at home which will be finished in April and my hours will be reducing in May, then we are ready to go! I am not feeling nervous at all - I only get apprehensive if I don't know how to do something but I know the fostering team at asphaleia will be there to support us if and when we come across any problems.

We are offering a home for lone children, or two siblings, male or female aged between five - 18 years old. Eventually, as Mike and I get more experienced, we would like to offer more specialist placements for children of any age, including babies, and parent and child placements.

Are you and your husband excited?

I am really looking forward to the challenges I will be faced with and making a positive difference to children, enhancing their lives.

My husband is excited...and nervous!

For more information about places available at asphaleia please contact Carol or Melissa on 01903 236522 or send us an email: carollusher@asphaleia.co.uk. More information about fostering is on our website: www.asphaleia.co.uk.