

**Time to care: time to act.
Foster care fortnight is nearly here**

The Fostering Network's annual Foster Care Fortnight is taking place on 16th – 29th May this year with the theme *time to care*.

Foster Care Fortnight 2011 will highlight the urgent need for more foster carers and call on everyone from political leaders to the general public to get behind fostering and support children in care.



"Foster care fortnight is a great opportunity for us to celebrate the great work our carers do for so many children and young people in need," explains Carol, fostering manager. "We are really excited about the events we have in store, as well as the opportunity to tell more people about how they too could become foster carers and make a difference to children in need."

Under the strapline fostering: time to care the Fostering Network's annual awareness-raising campaign aims to encourage a diverse range of people with the right skills and qualities to foster to come forward to meet the needs of children in care.

Since 2007 the number of children living with foster carers has risen by more than 6,000 when there was already a shortage of nearly 10,000 foster carers across the UK. This is putting the fostering system under immense pressure.

As a result children are moved around the care system more, bringing further disruption to their lives. Some end up living with foster families who do not have the specific skills to meet their needs. Others have to move a long way from home, often separated from brothers and sisters, and may lose touch with family and friends.

This will change if more people come forward to be trained as skilled foster carers who can help to create a better future for society's most vulnerable children. Now is the time to care.

To celebrate this special fortnight asphaleia fostering have a range of activities planned....further bulletins will be sent out detailing all our upcoming events and plans! In the meantime, please continue to visit our website for updated information: www.asphaleia.co.uk.