

fosteringpeople

changing lives together

Remand Fostering

Imagine you're 15 years old. You've never lived away from home and never been in trouble. A few months ago your best friend introduced you to a new group of people. Since hanging out with the group you've started to experiment with drugs, spurred on by peer pressure. Your friends are all involved in criminal activity, like shoplifting and you've been encouraged to join in. You know it isn't right, but you want to fit in.

Recently the dares have got a lot more serious and the last dare went horribly wrong. Under the influence of alcohol and drugs you stole a car and while driving you crashed causing serious injury to a pedestrian. You've been arrested by the police and charged with five different offences. You've been to court and the judge refused to grant you bail.

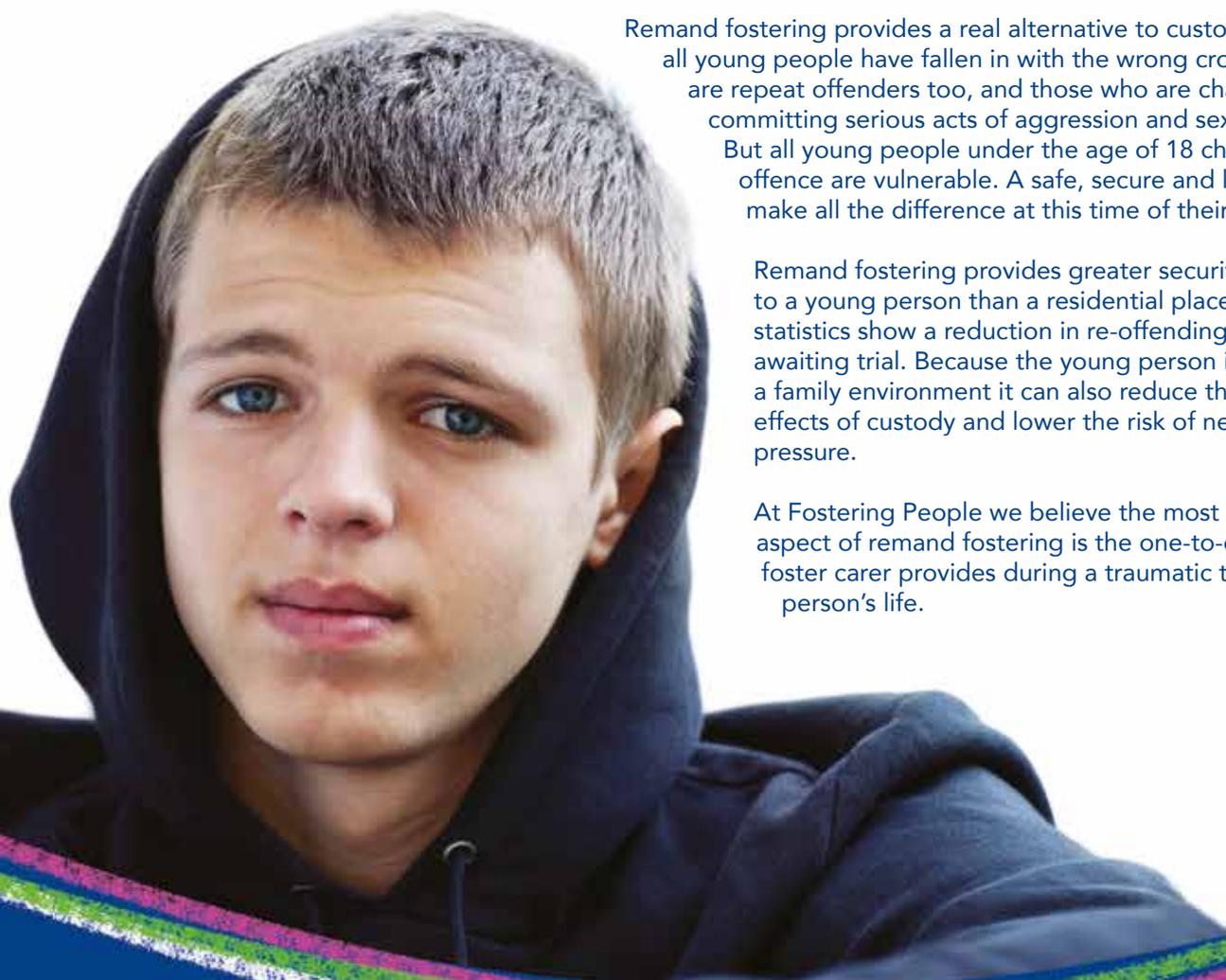
Can you imagine how scared you'd be? You're awaiting trial, not knowing what the future will hold. You're all alone in an adult world, not to mention the emotions you are going through due to causing someone serious harm. All you really want is your mum and dad, but you're not allowed to go home.

Remand fostering provides a real alternative to custodial care. Not all young people have fallen in with the wrong crowd, there are repeat offenders too, and those who are charged with committing serious acts of aggression and sexual violence.

But all young people under the age of 18 charged with an offence are vulnerable. A safe, secure and loving home can make all the difference at this time of their lives.

Remand fostering provides greater security and stability to a young person than a residential placement and statistics show a reduction in re-offending rates while awaiting trial. Because the young person is cared for in a family environment it can also reduce the damaging effects of custody and lower the risk of negative peer pressure.

At Fostering People we believe the most valuable aspect of remand fostering is the one-to-one support a foster carer provides during a traumatic time in a young person's life.



Is remand fostering for me?

Remand fostering is in many ways very similar to any other type of fostering. Many young people on remand have experienced abuse or neglect at home and some are already looked after, either in foster carer or in residential placements.

All the aspects of fostering such as maintaining contact with birth families and safer caring apply to remand placements too. But there are additional requirements that a remand carer needs to undertake:

- A remand carer needs to be very flexible; often placements are made at short notice and can be out of hours.
- A need to maintain bail conditions such as curfews and electronic tagging and take action, by contacting the police if these are broken.
- Work with the youth offending teams, police and the courts and accompany a young person to all appointments including solicitors, the police station and court hearings.

Due to the complex needs of these young people, previous experience of working with young people, working with offenders or dealing with challenging behaviours can certainly be an advantage.

Due to the nature of remand fostering it is unlikely that you would be considered if you have children of your own living at home.

What support will I receive?

Fostering People are committed to providing the highest standards of support to all of our foster carers. As a fostering agency rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, you can be assured that we understand how important the support you receive from us is in achieving positive outcomes for all young people.

In addition to our comprehensive support package, remand foster carers also receive:

- A locally based supervising social worker with specific knowledge and experience of the youth justice system and links with the youth offending team.
- A visit from a social worker within 24 hours of placement and weekly visits for the first month and a minimum of fortnightly thereafter.
- An excellent package of financial support which values your skills and acknowledges the challenges of remand fostering.
- Additional support such as therapy and education when identified as a need for the young person.
- On-going training specific to the needs of remand fostering.

"We were really anxious the first time we looked after a young person on remand. We knew all about the offences he had been charged with, which included the use of a weapon. But all of our anxieties disappeared when he quickly started to engage in our family life. He was able to talk about his life style and take really positive steps to make the necessary changes for a more positive future."

Gill, Foster Carer.

If you would like more information on becoming a remand foster carer with Fostering People contact us on:

0800 077 8159

www.fosteringpeople.co.uk