

The number of children in the care system across the North West region has risen by one third since 2011, with around 15,000 children currently in care.

There is a significant need for safe and supportive foster families to meet the needs of children in care. In 2021, there were around 1,300 children in care in Manchester; more than 100 of these children have experienced three or more moves in a year.

In addition, as of September 2020 there were 290 children waiting for an adoptive home. We know that around half of these children and young people have been waiting for more than 18 months already.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Manchester is almost eight times higher than anywhere else in the North West.¹ Care-experienced young people in England make up 25% of the homeless population; sadly, these are not separate issues.

There is an urgent need for high-quality, age-appropriate provision for older teenagers in care. Supported lodgings is one option that can significantly help young people aged 16+, and is a provision whereby they live in a room in the house of a 'host' family, individual or couple. No young person should have to approach adulthood without the safety net and support of family and community.

¹ Shelter Homelessness in England Report 2021

We all have a part to play. What could your part be?

"I believe that there are already homes waiting for the children and young people in Greater Manchester who need one. Imagine the transformational difference we could make together!"

I am providing opportunities for as many people as possible to hear this call, and I want to encourage and equip everyone to respond. I would love to talk to you about how we can do this together."

Kizzy Laycock – Festival Manchester Lead, Home for Good



Home for Good and Festival Manchester.

Finding 500 welcoming homes for children through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings.



homeforgood.org.uk/festival-mcr



festivalmanchester.com

Together we can find a home for every child who needs one

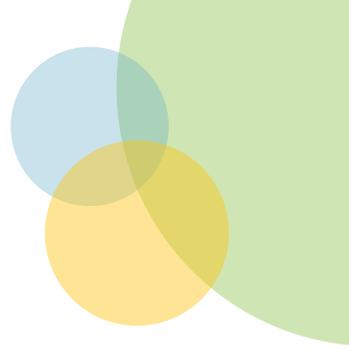
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Changing the landscape of the care system.



Home for Good believe the Church is ideally placed to ensure that every child and young person has the loving home they need.

Across Greater Manchester there are churches – big, small and in between – filled with people who want to reflect the heart of Father God and follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who walked alongside the vulnerable, the lonely and the marginalised.

'A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.'

Psalm 68: 5-6

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25: 34-36

As part of Festival Manchester, Home for Good are working to inspire, inform and journey with individuals, families and churches as they explore what part they can play in finding 500 homes across Greater Manchester through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings.

"I'm so excited for the lifelong impact Festival Manchester will have on lives across the region. We believe that we can see 500 children and young people placed into safe and loving homes. But it's not just 500 families – it's also 500 churches who will come alongside those families and pray, support them, cheer them on and welcome these children and young people into their community. It will be transformational. Imagine the impact this will have for generations to come!"

Andy Hawthorne, CEO and Founder, The Message Trust



Could you help?

WILL YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A FOSTER CARER, ADOPTIVE PARENT OR SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOST?

Home for Good would love to journey with you as you explore fostering, adoption or supported lodgings. Equipped with our programme of content, resources and events, and bringing stories, personal experience and connections with support groups, our team can walk with you from that first moment of inspiration through to welcoming a child or young person – and beyond.

ARE YOU A CHURCH LEADER?

Home for Good is passionate about inspiring the local church to welcome, understand and support families who love and raise care-experienced children. With dedicated resources, speakers, training and up-to-date local information about the needs in your area, Home for Good can help you to explore the part your church could play in supporting families on their journey.

ARE YOU ALREADY A FOSTER CARER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT?

There is nothing like learning from someone who has already walked the road ahead of you. Could you help us encourage, support and champion others?

COULD YOU HELP US BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIPS?

We would love to hear from those who work, or have worked in the past, in the social care sector. We work with adoption and fostering agencies, and other care-experienced stakeholders, and are looking to develop new relationships in this area.

