

## Tusla National Fostering Week 2020 – Briefing Note

- Tusla National Fostering Week 2020 takes place from October 12<sup>th</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- Tusla National Fostering Week will be launched online tomorrow, October 9<sup>th</sup> via the following Tusla link: [tusla.ie/raisingamazing/](https://tusla.ie/raisingamazing/)
- Adverts to support Tusla National Fostering Week 2020 will appear in print, on radio, and on social media to encourage more people to consider fostering.
- Across Ireland 4,124 foster carers currently open their homes to 5,450 children. In 2019, almost 600 children entered foster care for the first time.
- Tusla foster carers have positively transformed the lives of vulnerable children/young people, but we need many others to join them.
- Tusla foster carers receive financial, emotional and professional social work support, and training from Tusla, including a national out-of-hours emergency phone service.
- There are many misconceptions around who is, or isn't, eligible to foster.
  - Tusla currently work with foster carers who are in a same-sex relationship, are Travellers, are of African or Eastern European origin, are Muslim, have a disability, who don't have a job currently, who rent, who are single, who are over 40, and with parents who both work.
- Covid-19 has impacted on Tusla fostering services by significantly slowing down the assessment, training and communication processes involved in the recruitment of new foster carers.
- Members of the public wishing to find out more about Tusla fostering services can contact [fostering.ie](https://fostering.ie), ring freephone 1800 226 771 or email [tusla.fostering@tusla.ie](mailto:tusla.fostering@tusla.ie).