

# GMB@Work

## The Union for Foster Carers



### GMB Foster Care Campaigns

- Children in Need of Help & Protection. Educational Outcomes

GMB foster carers responses are in, the report has been collated and evidence submitted. A publication of the report will be available shortly.

- Access to 30 hours free childcare

We are also still awaiting to see how the government will implement their U-turn, to allow foster carers access to 30 hours free childcare for 3-4 year olds. A right previously denied, until challenged by the GMB, MP's and other fostering organisations, including The Fostering Network.

- Fostering Friendly Policies in the Workplace
- More rights for Senior Guardians
- GMB Foster Carers Pledge

**Proud**  
to support  
**Fostering**

Foster Care Fortnight

### Foster Care Fortnight

#### 14-27 May 2018

#### #FCF18

Foster Care Fortnight is the annual campaign, delivered by the Fostering Network and is the UK's biggest foster care awareness raising campaign. With thousands of new foster carers needed to provide this vital service in our society, that of caring for our most in need children, this campaign is much needed.

GMB, the Union for Foster Carers is proud to support The Fostering Network and this campaign.

The GMB has been actively campaigning for improvements to foster carers terms and benefits on a local, regional and national level for several years. Only by addressing the concerns and insecurities of existing foster carers will we keep the foster carers we have and encourage more to join the profession.

We are still awaiting the governments response to the Education Committees Fostering Inquiry and the National Fostering Stocktake, so it remains to be seen how seriously they will take the very mixed recommendations made by both. Some of GMB's key recommendations were included in both reports and it is vital that we keep up the pressure on making changes whilst we wait—that is where you come in. We need more foster carers to join the GMB and have their voices heard.

If you would like to read any of the GMB evidence submissions or past briefings and newsletters, they are available on line at :

[http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster\\_carers](http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers)

For more details about GMB membership & campaigns for Foster Carers:

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## The Union for Foster Carers



### Union Legal Services

As a GMB member you have access to a wide range of legal services with UnionLine:

- Criminal Representation
- Free Will Service
- Accident Compensation Claims
- Motor Legal Services
- Discounted Conveyancing
- Free Initial Legal Advice



### Other Union Benefits

- Extended Legal Services
- Motor Drivers' Fund
- Weekly Accident Benefit
- Convalescent Facilities
- Discounted Insurances
- Pensions Advice
- Funeral Benefit
- Life Assurance
- Dental Plan
- Credit Union

### FREE Courses

As a GMB member you have access to free courses which can assist you in achieving the mandatory training requirements of your local authority or fostering agency. For more details contact our project worker:

emma.bew@gmb.org.uk  
0345 337 7777

### Foster Carers & Allegations



Are you aware of what to do if an allegation is made against you?

Do you know what the procedures are for your fostering local authority or agency?

Many foster carers don't think about the answers to these questions until they find themselves the subject of allegations.

Sometimes these allegations are related to children currently in your care, other times they may be historic allegations from children you fostered many years ago.

As a GMB member you are entitled to contact and meet with your local representative for advice, support and representation throughout the whole procedure. This is whether it is an internal procedure with the local authority or agency, or whether you are subject to a criminal investigation being conducted by the police.

You will always have access to GMB legal support whilst you are a GMB member. Retiring from fostering? Speak to us about the options for keeping your membership protection for life.

A specific GMB UnionLine flyer is available for foster carers which outlines details of their rights to access criminal representation. This can be downloaded from our website:  
[http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster\\_carers](http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers)

### Stay up to date with GMB Foster Carer campaigns & events



GMB—The Union for Foster Carers

@RHarrisonGMB



[www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster\\_carers](http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers)