



*Coordinated by IFCA, Foster Care Hubs bring together foster carers and the fostering community for a variety of services and activities including; peer support, social events, learning opportunities and information talks.*

Irish Foster Care Association

# FOSTER CARE HUBS

Information Leaflet

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Company Registered No. 281419 CRA No. 20036690

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Irish Foster Care Association

## What are Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs have been created by the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) to offer services for all those involved in foster care to come together and meet for a range of activities such as: peer support, social events, learning opportunities and information talks. Coordinated by IFCA, these events will be supported by staff and trained volunteers who are recruited and supported by IFCA.

## Where are they located?

IFCA has identified the following areas for the new Foster Care Hubs:

1. Laois, Offaly
2. Dublin North City, Swords, Blanchardstown
3. Dublin South Central, Dublin South West, Kildare
4. Longford, Westmeath
5. Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary
6. Cavan, Monaghan

*Please note you do not need to reside in any of the areas identified above to attend.*

## What is the difference between IFCA Branches and Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs have been identified in areas that do not currently have Branches. IFCA aims to bring existing and potential members together through a wide range of services delivered through Foster Care Hubs. These services are open to everyone in the fostering community.

## Who can attend the Foster Care Hubs?

Foster Care Hubs are open to foster carers, those involved in foster care, and those who have an interest in foster care. There will be times when foster carers will meet as a distinct group together to seek and offer peer support to each other in a safe space which is facilitated by a trained IFCA facilitator.

## Do I have to be an IFCA Member to attend a Foster Care Hub?

Foster Care Hubs are open to all those involved in foster care. Membership to IFCA is free for the first year and everyone who is not already a member of IFCA will be invited to join. Representatives from IFCA will be present at events and activities that take place in the Foster Care Hubs and they can assist you with any additional information you may need.

## What type of events will be taking place in these Hubs?

IFCA's Foster Care Hubs will offer a variety of events including:

- Learning events
- Social events
- Information sessions
- Social events for children and families

- Peer support for birth children
- Peer support (foster carers only)
- Support consultations

Events will be offered to existing and potential members in the catchment areas and will not be confined to individual counties. Members of Branches may also avail of the offerings in the Foster Care Hubs.

## Are there any 'foster carer only' events taking place?

Yes, there will be foster carer only events taking place in these Hubs on topics of interest and importance to foster carers. These events will take place in a safe and confidential setting.

## How will I know what events are taking place?

All IFCA events are advertised on IFCA's website. If you are a member of IFCA, you will also receive direct email notifications about events.

## How can I get involved?

Just come along! If you would like to become more involved in your Foster Care Hub, you may wish to volunteer. Volunteers are central to the work of IFCA. Volunteers will work alongside staff to deliver services through the Foster Care Hubs. Volunteers in local areas also contribute a wealth of invaluable knowledge to IFCA's work. If you think that you have the skills or knowledge to support IFCA's Foster Care Hubs, contact IFCA on 01-459 9474, or [www.ifca.ie](http://www.ifca.ie)

## When is the next event?

IFCA will be facilitating a coffee morning in each Foster Care Hub area over the coming weeks. This is an opportunity to come along and learn more about the types of services which will be delivered through your Foster Care Hub and meet with IFCA representatives:

### MAY

1. Rua Red Arts Centre, Dublin  
**May 24th** 10.00 – 12.00
2. Temperance Hall, Longford  
**May 29th** 10.00 – 12.00
3. Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick  
**May 31st** 10.00 – 12.00

### JUNE

1. St. Mary's Youth and Community Centre, Offaly  
**June 1st** 10.00 – 12.00
2. Castleknock Community Centre, Dublin  
**June 5th** 11.00 – 13.00
3. Bridge Street Centre, Cavan  
**June 8th** 10.00 – 12.00

If you are interested in joining a coffee morning in your locality, please reach out to IFCA on 01-459 9474 or [admin@ifca.ie](mailto:admin@ifca.ie) to confirm your attendance.

## Who can I contact to find out more?

If you would like to learn more about our Foster Care Hubs, please contact IFCA on [01-459 9474](tel:014599474), or [admin@ifca.ie](mailto:admin@ifca.ie) or visit [www.ifca.ie](http://www.ifca.ie)